Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Malmierca To Condemn U.S. Blockade at UN

FL0110122591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Today, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca will speak at the UN General Assembly to discuss the need to end the U.S. blockade against Cuba. The UN General Assembly agreed to debate the issue as requested by the Cuban Government to discuss measures necessary to end the economic, trade, and financial embargo against Cuba established by the United States more than 30 years ago.

Sources close to the Cuban delegation commented that Malmierca has met at the United Nations with several foreign ministers to discuss the UN debate. According to these sources, the meetings have been characterized by total agreement with the fairness of the Cuban request to include the issue in the current period of the UN General Assembly seesions.

Added Solidarity Against U.S. Blockade Cited

FL3009134391 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The Continental Front of Women for Peace and Against Intervention has sent a letter to the United Nations requesting that this organization censure the United States for harassing and violating the sovereignty of Cuba. The group called for a needed and real admonishment against Washington to halt the harassing, intervention, and threats against Cuba. The group also demanded that the United States vacate and return the Guantanamo Naval Base.

Furthermore, an editorial in the Nicaraguan Weekly NUEVO AMANECER CULTURAL said that there is no moral reason, anywhere in the world, to justify aggression against a country for having a different political system.

Radio Reports Haitian President's Arrest

FL0110003891 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2358 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] This is a last minute report. Haitian President Jean- Bertrand Aristide has been arrested by the rebel soldiers and taken from the National Palace to the Army's general command post. According to news agency reports, one of Aristide's aides was killed during the actions and the guards protecting him stopped resisting the pressure of the rebels.

I repeat, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his aides have just been arrested by rebel soldiers in that country.

Reportedly Headed for New York

FL0110125791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1140 GMT 1 Oct 91

[From the "Hot Off the Press" section of the Morning Magazine with Daniel Torres]

[Excerpt] According to CNN, the American TV channel, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the constitutional president, a 38 year-old former priest, the first president in Haiti to reach this position through fully democratic means and with impressive popular support, is being exiled to France.

One report, however, confirms that just minutes ago Aristide had arrived at the Maiquetia Airport in Venezuela on board President Carlos Andres Perez' personal airplane. The report says that Aristide decided to head toward New York City.

What is he plannning to do in New York? Well, probably he wants to ask the UN General Assembly to examine the situation. But this is only speculation since this morning the UN refused to hear, simply rejected, the Haitian representations.

Galician President Continues Visit, Meets Castro

Visits Childhood Home

FL2709214291 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1959 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Today, Manuel Fraga Iribarne, president of the Autonomus Government of Galicia, received a warm welcome upon his arrival in Las Tunas and inmediately proceeded to Manati, the northern municipality where he resided as a child. He is being accompanied by members of his delegation, as well as Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers.

In Maniti, 50 km north of Las Tunas, Fraga Iribarne will be greeted by the local residents, will tour the city by car, and will receive an honored provincial guest plaque. The Galician president will also visit the house where he resided with his parents for several years during the twenties, the places where his father worked, the Argelia Libre sugar mill, and other points of interest. Mr. Fraga will also meet with residents of Galician ancestry in the municipality.

Discusses Human Rights

PA2909045191 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0349 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Havana, 28 Sep (EFE)—Manuel Fraga, chairman of the Galicia Board [government of this Spanish autonomous region] and President Fidel Castro met today for 12 hours and discussed "all possible topics."

Thus was explained by Fraga himself in a news conference tonight to several dozen Spanish reporters who are

covering his one-week visit to Cuba and that will conclude tomorrow when the visitors return to Spain.

Fraga, however, refused to report if he had mentioned to the Cuban president the possibility of the Cuban Government's democratization, noting that "the Cubans and their government are the ones who should decide what system they want to be ruled by."

Nevertheless, he did say that he had presented to Castro a report regarding the respect of human rights in Cuba and that President Castro had agreed to study the report, promising he would favorably resolve as many cases as possible.

When questioned on the U.S. blockade imposed on the island for three decades, Fraga rejected the term "blockade," however, he did say that "currently there is no justification for the U.S. Government's restrictive policy applied against Cuba."

With regard to the goals of his trip, Fraga said that they were primarily to get in contact with the Galician community in Cuba, for whom he secured the return of part of the building "Centro Gallego" (currently the Havana Theater), as well as the promotion abroad of Galicia, both of which he considered he had obtained.

With regard to the criticisms that arose in Spain because of his trip, Fraga said that "these had come from the radical right and the radical left, therefore I think that I am in the right position."

Moreover, he assured that during today's conversation with Castro "I repeated to him the word dialogue at least 100 times," and he noted that Castro did not exclude it [the word dialogue] in his statements.

Honored at Cultural Gathering

FL2809124591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Assessing the feelings between Cubans and Galicians, Galician Government President Manuel Fraga Iribarne has stated that our people understand and love each other. The distinguished visitor made these comments at the end of a cultural gathering offered on his behalf at the Great Theater of Havana. Fraga Iribarne also asserted that he and the delegation accompanying him have spent memorable days in Cuba and, aside from the economic and touristic transactions, the most important thing has been the meeting of two great countries.

Fraga Iribarne received a diploma conferring on him the title of honorary president. The diploma was extended by the Galician community in Cuba which is represented by 49 associations existing on the island.

Havana Reports on Visit

PA2909163391 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] There is no justification for the U.S. restrictive policy against Cuba, said Manuel Fraga, chairman of the Galician Board [government of this Spanish autonomous region], as he nears the end of his six-day visit to the island. In a news conference on 28 September in Havana, Fraga said he met with President Fidel Castro, with whom he held very open talks.

The Galician visitor stated his satisfaction with his meeting with the Cuban president and said that all topics were addressed with absolute freedom. According to Fraga, his delegation made progress toward bilateral cooperation in tourism and fishing. Denying that he carried any messages from Madrid to Havana, or vice versa, the chairman of the Galician Board said only the Cubans can decide when and how they must change.

Bids Farewell to Castro

FL3009122491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Earlier today, Manuel Fraga Iribarne, president of the Galician Government, returned to his country after a six-day visit to Cuba. At the Jose Marti Airport, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, said farewell to the president of the Galician Government with whom he held several meetings during the visit. The Cuban leader also said farewell to every member of the official Galician delegation and to approximately 30 businessmen who accompanied Mr. Fraga.

The president of the Galician People's Party fulfilled a busy work agenda in less than a week, including meetings with all Galician associations in Cuba; visits to centers of cultural, scientific, and economic interest; and meetings with several personalities. Mr. Fraga also toured the town of Manati, in Las Tunas Province, where he resided for three years during his childhood.

At every opportunity, Mr. Fraga said he was in favor of increasing ties of all kinds between Cuba and Galicia, a Spanish region from which tens of thousands of people emigrated at the beginning of this century.

Dominican Republic

President Informed on Haiti; Troops on Alert

FL0110134091 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has received various reports on the current situation in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The chief of state received a preliminary report from the J-2 unit of the National Army after Colonel [name indistinct], leader of this unit, flew over the border of both countries.

A second report, received from the U.S. Embassy, details the prevailing situation in Haiti.

The report establishes that no special Dominican troops have been sent to the border even though the military forces stationed in the region have been put on alert. A reliable source has said that the military chiefs are alert to continuing developments.

Army Plans To Invade Haiti Denied

FL3009225591 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 2221 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Diplomatic sources have reported over the phone from Port-au-Prince that Jose del Carmen Acosta, Dominican ambassador to Haiti, today denied false claims that the Dominican Army was reportedly going to invade the neighboring country. Acosta also denied reports alleging that former Haitian Colonel William Regala had crossed the border from Dominican Republic to Port-au-Prince with a force of 700 men.

Sources in the Haitian capital informed Santo Domingo that the false report on Regala and the alleged invading force was carried by Radio Soleil. According to the diplomatic source, the Army's rebel group maintains control of Port-au-Prince but the situation remains confusing. Nevertheless, the source asserted that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is safe and sound at an undisclosed location.

Reports indicate that the Haitian politicians sometimes use the Dominican Republic as an attempt to divert the attention from Haitian domestic problems. In line with that tactic, the members of the Dominican diplomatic staff at the Port-au-Prince Embassy are afraid the Haitian mobs may enter the embassy and the worst may happen. It was reported that the Dominican Embassy in Port-au-Prince continues without military protection and its personnel are locked inside because they fear being attacked by Haitians as a result of the speech delivered by Aristide at the United Nations recently in which he accused the Dominican Republic of violating the human rights of Haitian laborers who go to Santo Domingo to cut sugarcane.

Haitian Situation Noted

FL3009182291 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Station Editorial: "The Haitian Situation"]

[Text] Right now, democracy in Haiti is in serious difficulty. The terrible economic conditions, which followed the dictatorships, have not permitted less favored groups to satisfy their needs in any way that can be noted. The severe crisis has served as a sword of Damocles over the constitutional order in this neighboring country; but the current winds point toward the support of constitutional order throughout the world and the establishment of regimes that permit people to express themselves freely. Dominicans have always supported constitutional order and we have always encouraged this aspiration especially in Haiti. We hope therefore that the Haitians can overcome their differences at this time and save their democracy.

No Incidents at Haitian Border

FL3009215591 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2106 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Excerpt] A Dominican Republic Foreign Ministry communique reported today that no incidents have been registered on the border with Haiti. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Dominican Government is carefully following the events taking place on the other side of the Hispaniola Island where disturbances among Army ranks have already caused 20 deaths and dozens of wounded.

In the meantime, AP reports datelined in Santo Domingo say that Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was safe, but remained at an unknown location.

Relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic have been tense lately because the Dominican cabinet began repatriating undocumented Haitians. It is estimated that over 50,000 Haitian citizens have returned to their country so far. [passage omitted]

Radio Soleil Stops Broadcasting

FL3009232591 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 2233 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The Haitian people are preparing for another uncertain night after a group of military men began an uprising against the government of Jean- Bertrand Aristide. The only radio station reporting on the uprising, the Catholic Church's Radio Soleil, stopped broadcasting news without explanation after carrying a last bulletin in which it reported with reservations that Aristide had attempted to return to the palace with his bodyguards and that the guards had fired against the group. Since then, the radio station has only been transmitting religious music. The television has also interrupted its broadcasts.

Up to now, President Aristide has made no public appearances or comments on the uprising. Nevertheless, the U. S. State Department reported that Aristide is safe and sound surrounded by his private guard. Radio Soleil also carried an official communique indicating that all flights out of Haiti had been canceled.

For its part, Radio Cacique, which had been carrying reports could no longer be heard after a cry over the radio station line was heard. To the radio listeners' surprise, the station stopped broadcasting but its equipment continued to operate. Reporters in the streets were calling the station and giving their reports.

Several people called the radio stations to report that bodies were found at the side of roads in townships located north of the Haitian capital, [name indistinct]

Sarthe, and Croix des Missions. This report has not been confirmed by official sources, which have given no other reports.

Diplomat Denies Invasion Reports

PA0110023791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0130 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Report by Joaquin Suero]

[Text] Santo Domingo, 30 Sep (EFE)—Jose del Carmen Acosta, Dominican ambassador to Haiti, denied on 30 September that the Dominican Army will invade Haiti, diplomatic sources have reported to EFE.

Likewise, the sources denied that former Haitian General William Regala had crossed the Dominican border with Haiti accompanied by 700 men, as was broadcast by Radio Soleil.

The Army's rebel faction maintains control of Port-au-Prince, but the situation is still confusing, the diplomatic sources emphasized, adding that Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide "is safe and sound" in a still undisclosed place.

According to the sources, there are corpses all over the place and more than 500 persons reportedly died in different clashes which have taken place throughout the neighboring country.

It was reported that there are more than 50 dead and 250 wounded in Port-au-Prince's central hospital.

The sources also confirmed to EFE the assassination of former presidential candidate Silvio Claude, Aristide's opponent, whose body was dragged by a crowd through the town of Les Cayes.

The sources emphasized that the death of former Duvalierist General Roger Lafontant has not been confirmed, adding that "if he is not dead, at least he is critically wounded."

Furthermore, the diplomats said that the Haitian president had tried to enter the Presidential Palace in an armored personnel carrier before going into hiding, but the rebel forces which occupy the presidential palace prevented it.

There is still no information on who is leading the rebel soldiers, although Acting Armed Forces Minister Raoul Cedras is trying to convince the military to return to their barracks.

The rebels demand Cedras' definite appointment as chief of the Armed Forces, the dismissal of Aristide's civilian bodyguards, and the dismissal of military officers restored to their posts after being removed by General Prosper Avril's Government.

They also demand that the Army be given back the authority it had before Aristide was sworn in last February.

The Dominican Republic's diplomatic personnel in Port-au-Prince are afraid that clashes among Haitian citizens will reach the embassy "and the worst may happen."

The Dominican Embassy in Port-au-Prince still has no protection, and its members have locked themselves inside because they are afraid of repercussions to Aristide's speech before the UN General Assembly, which accused the Dominican Republic of violating the human rights of Haitian workers who come to the country for the sugarcane harvest.

Haiti

Continued Reportage on Army Rebellion

Gen. Cedras Issues Communique

FL0110112391 Port-au-Prince Radio RFI Haiti in French 0340 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Communique issued by the Haitian Armed Forces Central Headquarters in Port-au-Prince on 30 September and read by General Cedras—recorded]

[Text] We have received a communique from the central headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces. General Raoul Cedras, interim commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces has made the following statement.

[Begin Cedras recording] Today, the Haitian Armed Forces is obliged to assume the weighty responsibility for keeping the national ship afloat. After a seven-month experiment which we—the Army, the people, and the various component groups of the country—wanted to be democratic, the country is yet again confronted and languishing in uncertainty.

All Haitians, irrespective of creed or ideology, will pilot the ship to the destination. The Haitian Armed Forces makes the point of reasserting that they are a nonpolitical institution in the service of the Haitian people. They will respect the established constitutional order, guarantee democratic freedoms, and will not condone any acts of looting or necklacing.

The Haitian Armed Forces deplores the incidents that occurred on the night of 29 September and in the course of 30 September and claimed human lives. They sympathize with those suffering; with the bereaved families and extend their deepest sympathies to them.

They, therefore, call on the population to remain calm, to establish a serene climate conducive to the smooth holding of upcoming elections.

[Signed] Raoul Cedras, brigadier general of the Haitian Armed Forces. [end recording]

Cedras Promises 'Democratic Freedom'

PA0110050591 Paris AFP in Spanish 0433 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 30 Sep (AFP)—On the night of 30 September, General Raoul Cedras, commander of the Haitian Armed Forces, announced on the radio that he had assumed power in Haiti after the Army's uprising against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The head of state, who was arrested by rebel soldiers on 30 September at the National Palace and taken to the Army's General Headquarters, "chose to travel to France," an informed source reported. The source added that Aristide was getting ready to leave Port-au-Prince on board a Venezuelan Air Force plane.

During his radio address, Gen. Cedras said that he will guarantee "democratic freedom and the established constitutional order" and that he hopes to "establish an appropriate climate for the proper development of the next elections."

"The Haitian Armed Forces are an apolitical institution that does not promote looting, much less setting fire to a tire while it is held around a person's neck," Gen. Cedras added.

Cedras said that "he regrets the loss of lives," as a result of the uprising. According to various sources, at least 26 people were killed and 200 wounded since the outburst of the military uprising on 29 September.

He added: "The Haitian Armed Forces now have the obligation to assume the heavy responsibility of keeping this ship, our country, afloat. All the citizens of Haiti, regardless of their ideology, will lead our ship to safe port."

Father Aristide and six other people—relatives and Colonel Pierre Cherubin, the chief of police—arrived at the Port-au-Prince airport at night. They were to board a military aircraft sent by the Venezuelan Government prior to traveling to France.

According to the same source, Venezuela, France, and the United States negotiated this trip with the Haitian military leaders in exchange for safeguarding the life of the president.

The streets of the capital were deserted on the night of 30 September. Gone were the youths who opposed the rebels on the night of 29 to 30 September.

UNESCO Envoy Condemns Coup

LD0110084991 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0700 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The democratization attempt of the Haitian regime lasted only a few months. President Aristide, elected at the end of 1990 and who had been in power since last February, has just been expelled from his country. He is on his way to Venezuela before going to France. Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown by a military coup last night; for the time being a junta is replacing him. The Haitian ambassador to UNESCO in Paris protests against this putsch:

[Begin recording] [Ambassador] In my opinion, this coup in Haiti represents a tragedy for the Haitian people. After a few months of democracy, which was beginning to settle in the country and which managed to reach a relatively high level of institutional stabilization, this coup happening now really represents a blow to all the hopes of the Haitian people. It is the Army that took power again. It must be said that the Army was always an Army that made its career with Duvalierism. With the military in power, it is the return of fascism and of the Macoutes; it is the Duvalierist, neo-Duvalierist order that will become firmly established.

[Unidentified correspondent] What do you expect from the French political authorities?

[Ambassador] Support for the struggle of the Haitian people, democratic support; that is to say, condemnation of the coup. It has already been done, an isolation of the present authorities. No aid should be given to it. And [we want] the support of the French Government and French people for the efforts of Haitian democrats to bring back a democratic order. [end recording] [passage omitted]

U.S., French Envoys Intercede

PA0110034791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0209 GMT 1 Oct 91

[By C.. udio Matos]

[Text] San Juan, Puerto Rico, 30 Sep (EFE)—The U.S. and French ambassadors to Haiti, Alvin Adams and Jean-Raphael Dufour, are interceding with the soldiers who arrested Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 30 September, to allow him to leave the country. However, a Spanish Embassy official, who asked to remain unidentified, has told EFE that apparently the soldiers who headed the coup, believed to be noncommissioned officers, want to assassinate the 38-year-old president and former priest.

"The soldiers wanted Aristide, they wanted to kill [cargarselo] him. Now some diplomats are interceding for his life," the diplomat said in a telephone interview with EFE from Port-au-Prince. The source added that, apparently, Aristide was arrested this morning after a shoot-out across from his home in the Tabat neighborhood, near Port-au-Prince International Airport. The official said that this afternoon a fierce shoot-out was reported near the National Palace and neighboring areas, but added that he has no information on dead or wounded.

The Spanish diplomat said that Adams and Dufour are at the Army's General Headquarters where the Haitian president is being held.

"We are waiting for the end; these are bad times. Things do not look good for the country. We are reverting to the days of the military," the diplomat said.

The source said that apparently the French ambassador in Haiti suggested to the Haitian president by telephone that he go to the National Palace where they would discuss his departure. On his way to the National Palace, Aristide lost three of his bodyguards, including his chief of security. The source also confirmed the death, in jail, of Roger Lafontant, former interior minister during the Duvalier regime, however, he did not mention the circumstances surrounding Lafontant's death.

Earlier, Victor Benoit, leader of the Conference of Democratic Organizations (Conacon), had called on the Haitian people to unite and fight against a coup.

"It is still not known who is behind this. No one has appeared on television. The people are waiting to learn who is behind all this. It is believed they are noncommissioned officers," the diplomat told EFE. The diplomat added that the group "is well organized," even though at this moment "they have yet to report if there is a government."

The diplomat said that the entire "Lavalas" [avalanche government] (Haitian popular movement) "has disappeared. No one knows where they are and no one has made a statement. Morale is very low."

The diplomat said that the situation tonight in Haiti is calm, even though sporadic shooting can be heard. He added that television is providing no information and that there are currently two radio stations, Radio France International and Radio Lumiere, on the air.

Likewise, the Spanish diplomat told EFE that the heads of mission of the various embassies have been summoned to a meeting to be held tonight. This is apparently to inform them about the situation, however, he said that he would not be attending the meeting because it is not safe.

Concerning the meeting, the diplomat added that it is almost certain that other colleagues will do the same and stay home. He said that on 1 October they may do the same and wait for the official television station to provide clearer information on what is going on.

Spanish Officials Say Aristide Safe

PA3009224491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2106 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Report by Claudio Matos]

[Text] San Juan de Puerto Rico, 30 Sep (EFE)—Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is "well, safe, and sound" somewhere in Port-au-Prince, and he has survived the coup attempt against him, Spanish Embassy sources in Haiti told EFE.

A Spanish Embassy official who refused to identify himself said that Aristide was not wounded and that he was at his residence in Tabat, close to Port-au-Prince's international airport, when the residence was attacked by men "dressed in olive drab."

According to the diplomat, Aristide is well protected at a residence "somewhere in Port-au-Prince."

In a telephone interview with EFE from Port-au-Prince, the diplomat said that "shots can still be heard," but not as many as heard this morning close to the National Palace.

Shots are now being heard in the sectors of Delmas 41 and 44, Petionville, and the lower areas of the capital.

A Haitian Government official told the Spanish diplomat that Aristide has not appeared in public "because he cannot and because he does not want to, but he is all right."

The diplomat told EFE that no one knows who leads the rebellious soldiers, adding that Acting Armed Forces Minister Raoul Cedras is in charge of the negotiations to ask the military to return to their barracks.

The rebels demand, among other things, the appointment of an Armed Forces commander; the suspension President Aristide's civilian bodyguards; and the dismissal of those military officers who were returned to their posts after having been removed by former President Prosper Avril.

They also demand that the Army be given back the authority it had before Aristide was sworn in last February.

The Spanish diplomat said that Aristide traveled to "Cite Soleil" on 27 September, as soon as he returned to Haiti from the United States, to report that the country "must always be alert, because no one knows when it will be necessary to counter a coup d'etat."

Shortly before his trip to New York to address the 46th UN General Assembly, Aristide stated his concern about the possibility of a coup d'etat by neo-Duvalierists during his absence, and he said that he left his authority in the hands of the government, the Army, and the people.

[Prime Minister Rene] Preval said President Aristide apparently knew he was being plotted against because, on returning, he bypassed the government officials and diplomatic corps members who went to welcome him at the Port-au-Prince airport and went directly to "Cite Soleil."

The Spanish Embassy official in Haiti added that hundreds of persons took to the streets at 0500 today.

"According to the figures there are 25 dead and more than 120 have sustained bullet wounds. Everyone is tremendously afraid," the diplomat stated.

Rebels Take Aristide to Army Hqs

PA3009225991 Paris AFP in Spanish 2241 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 30 Sep (AFP)—A reliable source has told AFP that, after being arrested, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has been taken by rebels to Army headquarters.

According to the source, the official in charge of the president's security was killed during the action.

The president's surrender reportedly occurred because of a last- minute change in the situation, when soldiers guarding the palace joined the rebellion.

It is not known whether the rebels want the president's resignation or if they seek only his approval of their political and professional demands.

Aristide's Release Sought

PA0110004391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0019 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 30 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Haitian Foreign Minister Jean-Robert Sabalat announced on 30 September that he will attempt to negotiate the release of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from the rebellious soldiers.

The foreign minister confirmed that the Haitian president was arrested by the military at the presidential palace and taken to the General Staff [headquarters].

Sabalat pointed out that he fears for President Aristide's life and reiterated that he is seeking to negotiate with the rebellious soldiers.

Rebels State Demands

FL3009213591 London BBC World Service in English 2104 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The president of the Caribbean state of Haiti is reported to be safe and well after mutinous troops opened fire on his home in the capital, Port-au-Prince. At least 20 people are reported to have been killed and about 200 wounded during several hours of shooting in many parts of the city. The firing was later said to have died down.

The rebels want soldiers loyal to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to be dismissed and forced to leave the country. They also want his civilian guards sacked.

The government has not responded directly but the prime minister, Mr. Rene Preval, has condemned what he called an attempted coup.

Mr. Aristide became president last December in Haiti's first democratic elections.

Aristide To Resist Coup

PA3009191491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1827 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Report by correspondent Jacques Bien Aime]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 30 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Jean-Bertrand Aristide, constitutional president of Haiti, stated today that he will "resist to death" the military coup attempt, sources from the French Embassy told NOTIMEX.

Aristide, who is being protected at his residence "by a security cordon" created by the civilian population, spoke on the telephone this morning with authorities from the French Embassy and told them that he will resist the military coup "to death."

President Aristide's overseas telephone lines were cut by the coupists, who also silenced Radio Nationale and the state television. Currently, the only radio stations broadcasting in this capital are Radio Cacique (private-owned) and Radio Soleil (of the episcopate). Most of the international telephone company (Telco) lines were cut by the Duvalierists and military coupists and access to telephone operators is virtually impossible.

Traffic on the streets is forbidden and, according to this correspondent, the soldiers and Duvalierists are firing at any civilian who tries to disobey the order.

In Delmas neighborhood near the Alcatraz Church, a private doctor said he has six wounded persons in his clinic.

Prime Minister Rene Preval addressed the people at noon on the private radio stations asking them "to continue to walk on the path of 7 February 1991." In a statement that lasted less than one minute, Preval called on the people not to "yield to provocations." The prime minister said he will report later to the country on the current situation and asked the people "to remain alert."

Information Ministry authorities, who also spoke on privately- owned media, said that President Aristide is alive thanks to "the security and solidarity cordon established by the people" around the president's home.

A doctor from the health center told NOTIMEX: "This morning an Army jeep entered the general hospital and the soldiers fired at the people, patients, and workers. The soldiers victimized them, left the building, and continued shooting".

Local observers pointed out that this coup attempt is similar or worse than the one of 29 November 1987 when the soldiers and Duvalier followers sowed terror by machine gunning civilians on the streets. On that day, when elections were to be held to elect a civilian government to replace the military junta headed by former General Henry Namphy, vehicles carrying soldiers and Duvalier followers drove down the streets firing at and

sowing terror among the people. The situation silenced the radio stations and led to the suspension of the elections.

A resistance movement to counter the military coup "has not been established because the government has failed to react in a decisive manner," a government official told NOTIMEX. He added: "It is probable that President Aristide is assessing the situation because some soldiers, such as the presidential guard, are still loyal to the government."

Port-Au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul called on the soldiers to "immediately return to the barracks" to determine who the rebels are and who are loyal to the government. In statements to the radio, Paul called for the creation of a resistance "under a guerrilla force if necessary."

The State Department issued a statement through the U.S. Embassy "vigorously" condemning this coup d'etat and expressing full support for President Aristide.

Rebellion Reportedly Continuing

FL3009172491 London BBC World Service in English 1703 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Reports from the Caribbean state of Haiti say that a rebellion is continuing in the capital, Port-au-Prince, after a night of shooting in which 20 people are reported to have been killed and many wounded.

Haitian diplomats at the United Nations said that more shooting was going on today and mutinous soldiers had made a number of demands.

Earlier, members of the Presidential Guard were reported to have opened fire on the home of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The Haitian ambassador at the United Nations, Mr. Frits Longchamp said the president was not there at the time. Reports say that the president has contacted diplomats to tell them he is safe and well. Mr. Aristide was elected president last December in Haiti's first democratic elections.

Countries React to Coup

FL0110123591 London BBC World Service in English 1205 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The first democratically elected president of the Caribbean state of Haiti, Mr. Jean-Bertrande Aristide, has been overthrown in a military coup. Troops stormed the President's home and seized Mr. Aristide, whose release was negotiated by diplomats. Reports say he has flown to Venezuela with his family, but his whereabouts and eventual destination are not known.

The coup followed a day of shooting in the capital, Port-au- Prince, in which at least 25 people were killed and 200 wounded. Troops have complained of the civilian authorities misusing their powers over the Army. The commander of the Armed Forces, General Raoul Cedras, spoke on National Television of the horrors of uncertainty and pledged to restore order.

Mr. Aristide, a priest who built up popular support while working in Haiti's shanty towns, last week told the United Nations that democracy had taken root after the anarchy that followed the downfall of the Duvalier regime in 1986.

Haiti's ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Frits Longchamp, asked the Security Council to discuss the events in his country. But although the 15 members assembled, efforts to convene a formal meeting were opposed by a majority of states. Reports say the United States, China, India, and Romania argued that the coup was an internal matter and posed no threat to international security. Instead, the secretary general issued a brief statement deeply regretting what had happened. The Haitian ambassador later warned that people were being massacred in his country and he accused France, the United States, and Venezuela of trying to negotiate the expulsion of President Aristide. But correspondents quote French diplomats as saying they are merely trying to get the president out of Haiti alive. Outside the United Nations building hundreds of expatriate Haitians, many of them New York taxi drivers, chanted slogans demanding action from the Security Council.

Preval, Other Ministers Arrested

PA0110124691 Paris AFP in Spanish 0638 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 1 Oct (AFP)—Sources close to Haitian Prime Minister Reni Preval reported that he was arrested here overnight following the overthrow of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

According to the same sources, Information Minister Marie Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue and Planning Minister Renaud Bernardin were also arrested.

General Raoul Cedras, commander in chief of the Army, took power following the military revolt in which at least 26 have died and 200 were wounded by gunfire.

Further on Arrests

FL0110170491 Port-au-Prince Radio Lumiere in English 1400 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The military of Haiti has overthrown Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the country's first democratically elected president. A Venezuelan Air Force plane has flown the president to Caracas where he will supposedly remain until he goes into exile in France. [passage omitted]

The military takeover began Sunday night with mutinies at an Army base and a downtown police station. Before dark Monday, 30 September, troops attacked President Aristide's residence with gunfire in an attempt to assassinate him.

At least 30 people have reportedly been killed and more than 200 wounded in the capital city as Aristide loyalists battled soldiers throughout the day on Monday. [passage omitted]

The new government is to be headed by a three-man military junta which includes General Raoul Cedras, Colonel Alix Silva, Colonel Robert Marc-Charles. [passage omitted]

There is word now that the military government has arrested Prime Minister Rene Preval as well as the former Minister of Information Marie Jocelyn Lassegue. No further details are yet available. Meanwhile, the Haitian Press Agency has reported the disappearance of five Haitian journalists, two from Radio Antilles, two from Radio Cacique, and one from Radio National. [passage omitted]

Bazin Condemns Coup

PA0110160491 Paris AFP in Spanish 1456 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Oct 1 (AFP)—On 1 October, the Haitian political leader Marc Bazin, who was a presidential candidate in the elections which were won by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, firmly condemned the coup d'etat and called for an immediate return to constitutional order.

Bazin stated to AFP that "the democratic process willed by the Haitian people on 16 December 1990 (day of the general elections) must not be interrupted."

"It is impossible for a coup d'etat against an elected president or, much less, his exile to be a solution to a conflict of powers," Bazin said. The politician is the president of Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti.

Bazin called his fellow party members and all democrats to "make common cause to preserve democracy.

AFP Reports on Situation

PA0110153591 Paris AFP in Spanish 1429 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Report by Dominique Levanti]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 1 Oct (AFP)—Five hours after President Aristide departed for Venezuela, the streets here were deserted as inhabitants were traumatized by the military repression, which resulted in at least 26 dead and 200 wounded, AFP has confirmed.

At 0900, traffic was virtually nonexistent in the capital, while the international airport remained closed. The new military authorities who staged yesterday's coup d'etat have imposed a curfew from 1800 to 0600. Sporadic gunfire was heard throughout the night in many neighborhoods of the capital, forcing residents to remain indoors.

According to telephone reports to AFP, in Delmas neighborhood, east of the capital, the soldiers allowed the women to move about but ordered the men to return home. According to a local correspondent questioned on the telephone by AFP, calm also prevailed in Cap Haitien, the second most important city of the country.

The Haitians learned 30 September and 1 October through international radio reports that President Aristide had left for Venezuela. Local radio stations stopped broadcasting due to military pressure or for precautionary measures.

The "Tele-Haiti" private cable television aired 1 October General Cedras' address to the people announcing that he was assuming power and wanted to establish a climate that would be appropriate for holding "the next elections."

The Army commander in chief, a brilliant 42-year-old officer with a good reputation, showed signs of fatigue and read his speech in a monotonous voice. He was flanked by fierce-looking soldiers wearing olive drab uniforms and helmets and wielding assault rifles or machineguns.

Thus far, it is not possible to obtain reports from military sources regarding the whereabouts of the arrested members of Father Aristides' government team. Among them was Prime Minister Rene Preval, Information Minister Marie Jocelyn Lassegue, and Planning Minister Renaud Bernardin.

Thus far, the names of those who masterminded the revolt have not been mentioned. The only certainty is that several officers of the heavy vehicle corps (light armored vehicles) and the police garrison in the downtown part of the city supported it.

All those questioned by AFP—from the modest merchant to businessmen—expressed concern over the economic and political capabilities of the new military regime.

One Radio Station Broadcasting

PA0110164891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1525 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Report by Michel Lamiser]

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 1 Oct (EFE)—The streets of Haiti and the news media in this Caribbean country woke up today in silence a day after a group of military officers led by the leader of the Armed Forces Raoul Cedras overthrew the constitutional president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. [passage omitted]

Only one radio station is operating. It is Radio Lumiere from the Baptist Evangelical Mission of Haiti, which repeated in Creole the message delivered last night by Cedras, who promised to "respect democracy and the constitutional order." [passage omitted]

A Haitian deputy and a senator condemned the coup yesterday, as did Victor Benoit, leader of the National Congress of Democratic Movements.

Benoit withdrew as a presidential candidate during the last election to support Aristide under the banner of the National Front for Change and Democracy, which took him to power.

The coup was also condemned by Eddy Volel from the Christian Democratic Assembly, a dissident faction of the Christian Democratic Party headed by Silvio Claude.

Claude was murdered on the night of 29 September when the uprising began; a rubber tire was placed around his neck and then set on fire.

At 0900 on 30 September, his burnt body remained in Les Cayes and was torn to pieces by people who later went through the city displaying his remains.

Yoshichika Ohta, the Japanese business attache in Haiti, told EFE that his country has not recognized the government led by Cedras because he overthrew a government that was elected by the people.

Aristide Arrives in Venezuela

FL0110170791 Port-au-Prince Radio Lumiere in French 1500 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide arrived in Venezuela shortly before daybreak today after being forced into exile by a military coup. He is resting at the French ambassador's residence in Caracas. Security at the residence has been stepped up for the occasion. [passage omitted]

The Haitian president is likely to meet with his Venezuelan counterpart Carlos Andres Perez at noon today. President Aristide, overthrown yesterday in a military coup led by General Cedras, will go to France after the Venezuelan stopover.

Background on New Military Chief General Cedras

PA0110130691 Paris AFP in Spanish 0457 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 1 Oct (AFP)—General Raoul Cedras, the new military chief in Haiti who assumed power 30 September on behalf of the Haitian Armed Forces (FADH), is one of the most brilliant officers in the Army and was considered to be a moderate until now.

Cedras was born 9 July 1949 in Jeremie, in the southwestern part of the island, into a family of affluent businessmen. Cedras joined the military academy when Jean Claude Duvalier reopened it in 1971. He graduated with honors from the class of 1971-1972. He was an instructor at the Leopards Antiguerrilla Battalion at the Port-au-Prince military academy in 1983, then a commander in the Lamentin Training Camp, and later the director of the military academy.

In 1990 he assumed his role as chief of the committee for the security of the elections, which were won by Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The new president appointed him chief of the general staff on 7 February 1991, the same day he was sworn in with the rank of Brigadier General. Later, on 2 July, he replaced General Herard Abraham as chief of the Armed Forces when the latter resigned.

A specialist in physical education, General Cedras took military advancement courses in Spain, Mexico, the United States, and Taiwan.

Married to a Port-au-Prince woman, Yannick Prosper, this good- spirited military officer has two sons and a daughter. He speaks Creole, Spanish, French, and English.

Military 'Categorically' Denies Junta in Power

FL0110132791 Port-au-Prince Radio Lumiere in Creole 1025 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The Haitian Armed Forces stated that they will not tolerate any acts of looting or necklacing. Since the disturbances started in Port-au-Prince a total of 26 persons have already been reported dead and another 200 wounded. [passage omitted]

Father Aristide and six other persons—members of his family and Police Commander Colonel Pierre Cherubin—have left Port-au-Prince for Caracas; from there they will fly to France. [passage omitted]

A top military source has categorically denied the report that General Cedras is heading a junta including Colonel Alix Silva and Colonel Henri Robert Marc-Charles. The source says there is no such junta. It says Gen. Cedras continues to support the Parliament, which was freely elected.

During the short period Gen. Cedras will be in power, the Parliament will continue to sit. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Cristiani on Verdict in Jesuit Murder Trial

PA3009222191 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1230 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Report by Mauricio Burgos]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani expressed his satisfaction with the verdict of the jury that found guilty one colonel and one lieutenant who were tried for murdering the Jesuit priests.

Cristiani said the verdict must be accepted, as it was reached within the legal framework and it constitutes an example that in his opinion reflects respect for the law.

[Begin Cristiani recording] I believe that it is important to respect the law and the country's legal procedures. Perhaps this will not make us better, but it is our legal system and we must abide by it.

We believe this case has historical importance. Foreigners and nationals have participated in a process that was open to everyone. I believe it was conducted openly, and sought what is always sought in these cases: justice.

Of course, at the end of a legal process there is a jury, comprising common citizens who at the end decide the verdict. That is what happened. It can be said that justice and Salvadoran judicial procedure have written a very important page in history. The entire process is an example of how well justice can be served in our country.

Of course, what we must do now is accept the results from those who have the last word, the conscience of a group of citizens who made the final decision on how justice should be done. [end recording]

The Society of Jesus has announced that it will request a wider investigation to determine who masterminded the crime. According to the Jesuits, there is ground for this based on the fact that the court found Benavides guilty even though he did not physically commit the crime. Cristiani said the court will receive any type of evidence.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We have never dismissed any evidence that might lead to the conclusion that there was wider participation. However, so far we have not been given any such evidence. Anyone who may have specific evidence should present it to the presiding judge. I am sure that if there is enough evidence involving others, the judge will be willing to continue the investigation. [end recording]

Cristiani refused to comment on the possibility of granting amnesty to Colonel Benavides and Lieutenant Mendoza, explaining that the legislative branch will have to study that possibility.

Regarding reaction from the Armed Forces, Cristiani said the military has maintained that it will support the outcome of the trial and he ruled out the possibility of division in the Armed Forces.

Cristiani's comments were made at the 10th Congress of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, which ended on 29 September.

Spanish Observer Comments

PA3009145991 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1222 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] San Salvador—Spanish Socialist Deputy Luis Fajardo, who heads the parliamentarian delegation that observed the trial on the 1989 murder of six Jesuit priests and two women, has expressed his confusion over the verdict.

Fajardo, president of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Spanish Congress, said that for the time being the delegation would not comment on the verdict acquitting seven of the nine defendants. However, he admitted that personally he was very surprised by the decision.

The four Spanish deputies who were present as observers at the public trial held from 26 to 28 September will deliver a report on the proceedings to the Spanish Parliament. Fajardo and the other deputies refused to make any further comments. However, it was obvious that they were not very pleased.

A jury made up of five citizens, whose identities were kept secret for security reasons, declared Colonel Guillermo Benavides and Lieutanant Yusshy Rene Mendoza guilty of murdering the Jesuit priests on 16 November 1989. Col. Benavides was accused of ordering the massacre and Lt. Mendoza was accused of directing it. Another lieutenant, a sub lieutenant, two noncommissioned officers, one corporal, and two soldiers were acquitted, even though—according to the written proceedings—they had perpetrated the crime.

The Spanish Government was also represented at the trial by Deputy Foreign Affairs Secretary Maximo Cajal and a legal expert who refused to make any comment.

Radio Venceremos on Ruling

PA0110001391 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Station commentary: "Plot and Farce"]

[Text] The first chapter of a criminal conspiracy to assassinate the Jesuits and a farce to leave its masterminds unpunished has ended. A show was mounted to support the [Armed Forces] High Command's plans to obtain U.S. military aid.

From the very beginning of the Jesuit case, the High Command hid and burned evidence and lied, while the U.S. Embassy covered up for them by withholding valuable information. The farce started when the U.S. Congress made military aid subject to the outcome of the trial.

The real criminals were not called on the carpet. Instead, the crime was blamed on scapegoats, who were promised prompt freedom and money in exchange for their

silence. This farce took place within the framework of the most corrupt and dysfunctional judicial system that exists, as a former U.S. ambassador to our country described it. This is the very same judicial system that has been questioned and the reform of which has been demanded at the negotiating table.

We hope that the farce mounted by the criminal plot of militarism is viewed by the U.S. Congress for what it is: a hardly convincing show to impress the U.S. legislators. The granting of U.S. aid to the masterminds of the Jesuits' assassination will kill the possibilities of peace in El Salvador and is a slap in the face of the agreements reached in Mexico and New York, which have brought the peace negotiation to its final phase.

Seven of the nine accused were declared innocent and will be freed. Atlacatl Battalion members, who were trained to kill civilians as they did 1,000 peasants in El Mozote and hundreds in Sumpul, will be freed. These low-level officers are actually the victims of the doctrine of a despotic and murderous armed forces, which deformed their minds. The agreements signed in New York call for change. This is the great battle that civilians must wage. They must struggle vigorously to ensure the implementation of the agreements to end militarism.

The Jesuits' case is only the beginning. The masterminds remain in the armed forces and represent the real threat to the peace agreements. The wall of militarism must be torn down now that it has suffered a fatal crack.

Diplomatic Relations With Hungary Established

PA2909183191 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] The Salvadoran Government established diplomatic relations with Hungary during a ceremony held between the foreign ministers of the two countries in New York on 27 September.

According to a Foreign Ministry communique, Foreign Minister Miguel Pacas Castro and his Hungarian counterpart signed documents establishing relations at the embassy level.

According to the note, relations between Hungary and our country will be based on respect for international law and conformity with the UN Charter.

Guatemala

Weapons Purchase To Fight Violence Announced

PA2809201291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2218 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—On 26 September, Government Minister Fernando Hurtado announced that his country will buy weapons and vehicles to modernize and improve the security forces in the fight against violence. Hurtado said the weapons will be bought with $4.2 million available from a special fund.

The minister added that 30 percent of this money will be used to purchase new weapons, 1 percent to purchase ammunition, and 25 percent to purchase vehicles. Minister Hurtado did not say where these weapons would be bought. The remaining $1.8 million will be used to modernize and improve the security organizations.

Hurtado admitted that "unfortunately, impunity continues in Guatemala;" however, he added that there is political willingness to eradicate violence in that Central American country.

The minister announced that the security forces will be improved with help from Chilean Carabineros and the Government of Taiwan.

This year alone, more than 1,000 people have died as a result of violence in Guatemala. Several hundred are missing and many union leaders, and local and foreign correspondents, have been forced to flee the country.

Civil Aeronautics Director on Clandestine Strips

PA2909012691 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 27 Sep 91 p 3

[Text] On 26 September, Civil Aeronautics Director General Colonel Antonio Batres revealed that, according to reports received by the authorities, there are more than 1,000 unregistered and/or clandestine airstrips in the country.

His department controls 640 private landing strips all over the national territory and, even then, it is physically impossible to control each one of them directly.

"Any place in Guatemala which has enough space to take off or land has been used by people involved in drug trafficking," he said.

He also admitted that this is a critical problem, which can only be solved in one way—through "a network of radar" located at strategic points.

This is how Mexico maintains an effective control of its airspace and "not even a fly can take off without having Civil Aeronautics know about it, thanks to its radar network," he added.

Batres said that Guatemala has been deprived of international aid due "to something that no one mentions: There are political problems here, and they have resulted in the disappearance or murder of many people."

"We must ask ourselves if the murders have been perpetrated by people who do not endorse a struggle against drug trafficking, particularly if $2 billion in cocaine crosses our country every year," he added.

Consequently, Col. Batres believes it is not difficult for the drug trafficking groups to be responsible for the disappearance of many Guatemalans.

The Civil Aeronautics director hopes that those who are in charge of controlling the aid will open the money box for Guatemala "some day."

"Our country cannot possibly buy a good radar system, because it would have to invest between $20 million and $25 million for each one," he emphasized.

The government needs at least seven radars to exercise a minimum and adequate control of its airspace, but there is absolutely no money for this, he stated.

Propaganda Bombs Explode Near Media Offices

PA2809200291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1607 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Five propaganda bombs from the clandestine Guatemalan Labor Party (PGT-Communist) exploded last night near several media installations in the Guatemalan capital, without inflicting casualties or damage, official sources reported on 27 September.

Two devices exploded across from Channel 7's television studios, a third exploded near the Association of Guatemalan Journalists' offices, a fourth exploded near Radio Independiente, and a fifth one exploded near Channel 11's television studios, the Firemen Corps reported.

The propaganda bombs contained messages from the PGT, one of the groups comprising the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, to commemorate the 42d anniversary of its founding, which is celebrated 28 September.

"As revolutionaries we strive to increase and give perspective to the struggle for democracy and peace, to achieve a political and negotiated solution to the armed conflict and the economic and social crisis," according to the PGT flyers.

The devices caused alarm among the people living in the capital but there were no casualties or damage, the Firemen Corps said.

Honduras

* Army Threatens Plebiscite Workers

91CA0229A Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 9 Sep 91 p 6

[Text] The Innovation and Unity Party-Social Democrats (PINU-SD) has charged that the National Directorate of Investigations (DNI) threatened two members who participated in the popular consultation about the proposed elimination of the post of commander in chief of the Armed Forces and other military reforms. The threat was that they would "disappear."

This information was contained in the following communication sent by the president and the vice president of the PINU-SD, Enrique Aguilar Currato and German Leitzelar, respectively, to Colonel Guillermo Paredes Hernandez, the commander of the Public Security Force, for him to pass on to the recently established Office of Professional Responsibility (ORP).

Irregularities Charged

To the office of the commander in chief of the Public Security Force, Col. Guillermo Paredes Hernandez:

By this means, on behalf of and as representatives of the Innovation and Unity Party, we respectfully address ourselves to you in order to ensure that a copy of the charges pertaining to the irregular actions detailed below reaches the pertinent department:

1. The Innovation and Unity Party, consistent with its ideological foundations and its political program and profound democratic roots, has, through its parliamentary representatives, submitted to the Congress of the Republic a proposed constitutional amendment designed to update and modernize the structure of the armed forces.

2. The proposal mentioned above has been put to a popular plebiscite, in accordance with the constitutional guarantees and the norms set forth in the Electoral and Political Organizations Law, which give our party and the citizens affiliated with it the right to consult and determine public opinion within the framework of a democratic system. In this connection, preparations for such a consultation have been made by obtaining the signatures of citizens who support the draft constitutional amendment decree in question, with the active members affiliated with our party pursuing the political activity described above in connection with this consultation.

3. Since the date the tables and registers were set up in the Central Park for this purpose, our party activists have been surrounded by security agents we believe to be representing the National Directorate of Investigations and Security of the Army. This is an act we regard as constituting a violation of the constitutional guarantees, since the activity being pursued is an eminently legal one. In the fulfillment of their duties and to the benefit of the citizenry, these agents should be engaged in other activities designed to protect and safeguard property and persons, and they should not be coercing or interfering with legitimate political activities.

4. The most serious fact is that the surveillance in question has been excessive, to the point of becoming a persecution of the activist members engaged in this activity. Comrades William Jose Gomez Romero and Anarda Santos Meza have been the victims of daily harassment subsequent to their activities, to the point that Comrade Anarda Santos Meza, while leaving the Central Park on the afternoon of 28 August of this year, was approached by an individual whose name we do not know, but who identified himself as a DNI agent. He warned her that if she did not abandon this activity, she would be risking consequences, including even her "disappearance." Comrade William Jose Gomez Romero is also suffering harassment in his usual and family activities. For example, another agent, who also identified

himself as representing the National Directorate of Investigations, appeared at his home at 11:30 on 4 September of this year. On that occasion, he warned our comrade's wife that full information about him and his family was already in hand. He said that it was known that he had traveled to the city of Danli, a trip, which in fact, he did make on party business, to arrange a contract for premises where internal party activities were to be held. After making this statement, the agent left the message that this individual should abandon these activities against the Armed Forces, stating that if he continued, he might at any time find himself shot in the street.

At 20:00 on Tuesday, 3 September, of this year, the members of the Central Board of Directors of the PINU-SD held their regularly scheduled meeting, in full compliance with our responsibilities to the party. During this period, we received threatening telephone calls that bombs would be placed in our headquarters. Logically, we have no choice but to link this message with these agents of harassment about which we are informing you.

In the hope that proper attention will be devoted to this communication, and that the complaints office recently established at the Public Security Force will take the necessary measures to investigate these facts, we are very respectfully making you aware of these irregularities. For as long as they continue in this way, they taint and damage the image of the armed forces, causing continued anxiety in the citizens who are engaged in legal and legitimate activities in the exercise of their constitutional rights. And they further intensify the process in which the citizenry is losing its confidence that the established institutions can guarantee the safety of individuals, as well as protecting the exercise of their rights.

In view of this evidence, we can only report these attitudes and assign responsibility for any situation which may do harm to our activists and members, in terms of any attack upon their lives, property, or persons, to the security authorities, which the agents who have perpetrated the harassment described claim to represent.

Most sincerely and respectfully, on behalf of the Central Board of Directors of the Innovation and Unity Party,

Dr. Enrique Aguilar Paz, President
German E. Leitzelar Vidaurreta, First Vice President.

Nicaragua

Chamorro in France Seeking Debt Cancellation

PA0110043291 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The president is in Europe trying to obtain funds. President Violeta Chamorro begins a series of meetings on 30 September with French Government officials and with President Francois Mitterrand to discuss matters of economic and technical cooperation. The president is seeking financial aid to boost the country's economic recovery process. The importance of President Chamorro's visit to Paris centers on a proposal to forgive Nicaragua's debt to France.

Chamorro will travel to Italy where she will visit Pope John Paul II. During the 10 days that President Chamorro will be away, Vice President Virgilio Godoy will not assume the Presidency. Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo was left at the government's helm.

CIAV-OAS Official Explains Supervisory Role

PA2809040091 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] The OAS International Commission of Support and Verification, CIAV-OAS, has not ruled out the possibility of pulling out of Nicaragua if the so-called recontras do not stop engaging in warlike activities in certain sectors of the country. These statements were made by Dr. Santiago Murray, CIAV-OAS coordinator in Nicaragua, during an exclusive interview with Radio Nicaragua Network. He voiced his deep concern over the current conflicts that the recontras have started in certain regions. Dr. Murray denied the media reports that the organization has certain ties with or is an ally of the recontras.

[Begin recording] [Murray] The rearmament issue concerns us very much because it undoubtedly affects our mission, which is responsible for supervising the demobilization—and subsequent return to Nicaragua's social, political, and economic life—of all those who voluntarily surrendered their weapons last year. Therefore, we in no way support this movement. We were initially contacted by the recontra groups. We tried to persuade them that using their weapons was not the way to get their demands met. We failed in our efforts and, upon their request, began a mediatory role with the authorities, who also accepted this role. This is not really the CIAV's responsibility but we agreed to do it in an effort to facilitate the dialogue between those who make the demands and complaints and the competent government authorities.

We established conditions for our mediatory role. We said that the parties should not start operations while the talks were under way. We have constantly tried to persuade both parties and have talked with them. We have tried to convince them to at least remain in specific zones so that the authorities can take measures against groups who, claiming that they are part of the movement, perpetrate criminal actions.

[Reporter] Dr. Murray, is it true—as some Sandinist media have implied—that the CIAV-OAS is in complicity... [pauses] is concealing the recontras' military operations?

[Murray] Not at all. The international organizations become scapegoats when it is necessary to find culprits, although we do assume responsibility for certain situations that may arise. However, we have said many times that we are fulfilling a mandate from the Central American presidents, resulting from the Tela Agreements that were signed by former President Daniel Ortega. We are

carrying out that mandate in a professional and obective way. We want all the Nicaraguan people to know this. Our duty is to follow up and verify compliance with the guarantees granted to those who voluntarily demobilized. Sometimes this so-called protective duty is misinterpreted by certain members of the media. However, we would do it here and anywhere in the hemisphere whenever we are called on to carry out such a delicate mission.

[Reporter] What is the CIAV-OAS doing about the latest attacks that have been carried out by alleged recontras, who have gone so far as to kidnap people? Has it tried to make direct contact with some of the recontras to get them to stop these actions?

[Murray] We, of course, do not have sufficient personnel to foresee these events, especially the kinds of events that are taking place. Presently, we have personnel on their way to Mulukuku; we have made radio contact with Walala and have been told that there are no problems. Nevertheless, the officials are on their way to confirm whether the press reports are true. Without a doubt, this does not contribute to an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation. Therefore, in our case, the communications system allows us to be at least partially well-informed. We cannot anticipate the problems, but we can learn of the incidents immediately. Of course, we disapprove of the recontras' actions, such as kidnappings and attacks on the lives of civilians and on private property. In fact, we are in the process of investigating an incident that occurred in Region 1, near Esteli. We are contacting the leaders to ask them to reconsider their action, otherwise the CIAV-OAS will unfortunately have to abandon its mediation efforts. The recontra leaders have already been told this. We cannot be part of a process in which agreements are not respected.

[Reporter] Is it true that you would leave Nicaragua and the work you have been doing up to now in accordance with the agreement signed with Commander Pedro Ortega?

[Murray] We cannot discard that possibility. We would have to consult with the OAS secretary general to determine our mission's role in the event of an armed conflict. Our mission does not include that type of mediation; we are doing so in the interest of promoting dialogue. Our job here is basically to follow up and verify compliance with the various guarantees of those who have already reentered the political, civilian, and economic life of Nicaragua. It is not a verification and follow-up job, however, because they have resorted to using their weapons.

ONUCA Reports No Recontras on Honduran Border

PA2809022191 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The UN Observer Group in Central America, ONUCA, has said it has not detected recontras—former contras who have again taken up arms—in Honduran territory. ONUCA's Blue Helmets reinforced their patrols along the common border between Honduras and Nicaragua after the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry announced on 24 September that it was investigating reports that the so-called recontras were receiving weapons by air from communities in southern Honduras.

Even though the Nicaraguan authorities did not present a formal complaint about this, ONUCA investigated and found nothing, ONUCA spokesperson Itzel Rivero said. The diplomat added that the military will maintain their patrols from their Danli observation post, in eastern Nicaragua, to monitor any unusual situation.

Former Resistance Commander Denies Rearming

PA2809035291 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network 0200 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Former Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] member Israel Galeano, alias Commander Franklin, has appeared before the media to deny a report, which was carried on a local news program on 27 September, that stated he has taken up arms against the government.

Commander Franklin described the report of his uprising, which he flatly denied, as ill-intentioned and a violation of his rights as a citizen.

[Begin Galeano recording] It has never crossed my mind to rearm. I am willing to continue struggling against Nicaragua's social crisis, and I know that a gun would solve nothing in this socioeconomic crisis. [end recording]

Franklin said that his only work as a citizen is to help the demobilized RN who have no access to government institutions.

[Begin Galeano recording] Today I am a citizen like any other citizen. As a citizen, I have a right to participate in any political body or union. [end recording]

Government Ministry Spokesman Frank Cesar described the completely false reports of uprisings and takeovers in Nicaragua as negative to Nicaragua's image.

[Begin Cesar recording] A number of completely false reports has been circulating. This leads us to believe that there is a campaign to make Nicaragua appear as if it were returning to a warlike situation. To say that Commander Franklin has rearmed and to broadcast this to other countries that are trying to help us—the Nicaraguan people—really takes its toll. [end recording]

Recontras Occupy Town North of Jinotega

PA0110041791 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Jinotega—At 0800 on 29 September an unknown number of recontras occupied the town of Venecia, 25 km northeast of Jinotega.

According to reports, the attack began at 0400 on 29 September, and voluntary policemen in the town, which has approximately 70 houses, clashed with the recontras. The report added that police and Army reinforcements have

been fighting with the recontras installed in Venecia since 29 September. No further details are available.

Residents who have fled the area said that several people have been killed or wounded.

Panama

DEA Flies 2 Witnesses to Miami for Noriega Trial

PA3009144991 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Highly reliable sources have told Radio KW Continente that over the weekend of 21-22 September the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration flew to Miami two Chiriqui Province residents to serve as federal witnesses in the trial of former general Manuel Antonio Noriega, accused of drug trafficking and money laundering. It was known that one of these persons is a politician and businessman and the other is an accountant. Both men have ties to drug trafficking and money laudering and are very wealthy.

Columnist Outlines Disadvantages of Bases

PA2709162491 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Sep 91 p 34

[Article by Roberto N. Mendez: "Military Bases: Are They Beneficial or Harmful?"]

[Text] To justify their drive in favor of the presence of U.S. military bases in Panama after the year 2000, some interested parties argue that these bases are a source of considerable revenue for Panama and that we could not survive without such revenue. This is not true.

According to the U.S. Embassy, the contribution of the bases to the country's economy includes: $80 million annually in salaries to approximately 5,500 Panamanians who work at the bases; and $100 million annually from payments for various contracts and for the purchase of goods and services from Panamanian enterprises; however, a large number of these products are partially or fully imported so the local economy profits little from their sale. In all, military bases contribute to the Panamanian economy close to $188 million annually, from which it is necessary to subtract part of the revenue from the sale of imported goods.

This amount is not small, but it is much smaller than the benefits the country will receive when the administration of the Canal is transferred to Panama in 2000 and the bases must be dismantled according to the Torrijos-Carter treaties. In tolls alone, the Canal yields close to $330 million annually, more than one-fourth of which is squandered by the Panama Canal Commission in swollen "expenditures" benefiting U.S. military personnel and civilian bureaucrats. These expenditures have no relationship to the Canal's operation and could easily be eliminated to benefit the country.

In addition, the toll rates charged by the Canal are so low that transiting ships save up to 10 times the cost of sailing round Cape Horn and up the South American Pacific coast. In other words, when Panama takes charge of the Canal, the Panamanian Government might substantially raise the tolls without reducing the traffic through the Canal. This measure will yield substantial additional revenue, much higher than the amount the bases produce.

Not only that. The Panamanian Government currently spends millions of dollars renting private housing. These millions could be saved by using the buildings and other structures located in the military bases, which will revert to Panama. These buildings and installations could also be used to curb the huge and growing housing deficit in Panama City and Colon by opening hospitals, schools, and production centers, which would yield the resources necessary for their maintenance.

The bases have very negative consequences for the country. First of all, they are a source of unpopular military intervention. The Defense Forces [PDF] of Noriega were created in those bases. When the PDF ceased to be useful to the U.S. Government, the troops from these bases destroyed the PDF during the 20 December 1989 invasion, which killed and wounded thousands, caused damage worth hundreds of millions, and accelerated the execution of the same unpopular economic policy—the "structural adjustment"—sponsored by Noriega and his cronies.

The bases are also a source of smuggling; even the government estimates this smuggling to exceed $30 million annually. The bases make the country a potential primary military target in the event of conflicts, such as the Persian Gulf war. The bases are also the source of disease and vice, including AIDS and drug addiction—the United States is one of the countries most seriously affected by these evils—that enter Panama through these bases.

Finally, the presence of the bases has disrupted the urban development standard of Panama City and Colon. Instead of growing in circles or semicircles, these cities have grown horizontally or, like in the case of Colon, by sections, which has aggravated the transportation problem and increased the price of land.

In sum, those who demand the continued presence of the military bases in Panama beyond 2000, are either selfishly defending their own interests or are not fully aware of what they are doing.

Aid From Support Countries May Be in Jeopardy

PA0110044391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 30 Sep 91 p 1A

[Text] The countries that make up the Panama Support Group may withdraw their financial aid to the country, worth $430 million, if the governing bodies of the international financial institutions (IFI's) do not approve the agreements with Panama by November at the very latest.

According to a communique issued by the presidency of the Republic, the negotiations with the IFI's ended successfully. But, it adds, the results must be approved by the governing bodies at their regular meetings, for the good of the country.

The communique says there is a danger that discussion of the agreements may be postponed. It also says that necessary steps need to be approved by certain government branches to close the negotiations.

Restructuring the Social Security Fund system, tax reforms, and privatization plans were approved at the last meetings with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy.

Panama's foreign debt totals over $6 billion and what has been done up to now is to request that the process be resolved quickly so Panama can present its payment proposal to the IFI's Board of Directors in mid November.

Ford Orders Shots Fired at Student Demonstration

PA0110002391 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] At the end of the swearing in ceremony for the new rector of the University of Panama, Vice President Guillermo Ford was attacked by students.

University students shouted antigovernment slogans and insulted the vice president, thus tarnishing the new rector's swearing in ceremony.

Vice President Ford was struck as he left the university's central hall and had to take a detour to reach a vehicle driven by his bodyguards.

Along Ford's embarrassing path, students threw tomatoes and other things at him. Many hit their target.

The situation turned tense and suddenly a shot was heard. In spite of the shots, fortunately no one was hurt, except for the vice president, who was struck by the students. His vehicle was left at the University of Panama because the university students blocked it in. That forced him to take the bitter path.

The students actions tarnished the swearing in ceremony and are to be condemned for their violence.

In the afternoon Guillermo Ford, planning minister and vice president, stated his opinion regarding the events.

[Begin recording] [Ford] I believe it is an isolated event. I say it now and I will maintain that. I saw the small number of aggressive, totally uneducated people who shouted insults and who tried to intimidate us. Those people cannot reflect the opinion of the university, much less the opinion of the majority.

I believe the university will enter a new stage with the new rector, a stage of decency, because I do not believe the university can be a den of hoodlums. I do not believe that they have to keep thugs there. I will not spend my taxes to keep thugs at the university. Those who want to study should be decent persons who go there to learn and prosper together with the country, but financing hoodlums at the university is not right. I would not give a single dollar to the university if it went to thugs.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Vice President, will there be an investigation?

[Ford] I will not order an investigation because it happened on the university campus and I respect the university's autonomy and I imagine that the university authorities will take responsibility for that. However, for me, that chapter is over.

[Reporter] Is there anarchy at the university?

[Ford] I do not believe there is anarchy. A group of 20 or 30 persons cannot be considered anarchy at the university.

[Reporter] However, some people have questioned the use of weapons at the university.

[Ford] When we were out on the street, I ordered three shots fired into the air. If the students had come close in the street, I would have had them shot. [end recording]

PDC Communique on Ford, Economic Issues

PA2709191791 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Sep 91 pp 56,41

[Communique issued by the Christian Democratic Party faction, PDC, at the Legislative Assembly in Panama City on 25 September; signed by Alfredo Ehlers, coordinator of the PDC faction]

[Text] Second Vice President Guillermo Ford, who is also planning and economic policy minister, has appeared before a Legislative Assembly plenary session to explain the programs for the modernization of the Panamanian economic system, especially the privatization of state enterprises.

In addition, Finance and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo talked about several of the points mentioned by the second vice president, including the tax system.

Guillermo Ford talked about the National Institute of Telecommunications [INTEL] privatization, which will take place in mid-1992.

Ford also talked about the need to privatize the expansion of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE] so as to modernize the enterprise, because the government does not have the ability to do so.

Guillermo Ford also said that an institution will be created to regulate IRHE and INTEL in order to guarantee low cost service. IRHE currently "charges one of the highest rates in the world."

In addition, Ford said we have not accepted and will not accept impositions from international financial institutions. He also said government employees will not be

dismissed. The government will, however, reduce its payroll by means of privatizations.

On 24 September, the planning and economic policy minister appeared before the Legislative Assembly, at its request, to explain the dealings and agreements that the Panamanian Government has reached with the international financial institutions as well as the commitments and conditions that were agreed on.

During his appearance, Mr. Ford, without citing any document, repeated very well-known arguments. It was evident that he was concealing the documents that contained the agreements reached between the national government and the credit institutions known as the IFI'S [international financial institutions]. The attempt to hide such documents constitutes a flagrant lack of respect for the legislative branch and for the Panamanian people. It involves an act of secrecy and manipulation that is typical of dictatorships and completely detached from democracy.

The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] faction of the Legislative Assembly believes the foreign debt negotiation and the so-called modernization of the economy are issues that really determine the fate of the Panamanian people, because they involve the sale of state property and enterprises, payroll reductions, and because they directly affect the agriculture, industrial, and service sectors, which have been forgotten and put aside by the national government.

As a result, the PDC faction of the Legislative Assembly demands that Mr. Guillermo Ford effectively and immediately submit to the honorable Legislative Assembly true copies of the original documents containing the agreements reached between the national government and the IFIS, so that we may begin a responsible and serious national debate on what truly matters to the interests of the Panamanian nation.

The absence of such documents makes Mr. Guillermo Ford responsible for the Legislative Assembly's inability to discuss the bills that the national government is submitting in order to implement the alleged agreements, with which not everyone in Panama is familiar.

[Signed] Dr. Alfredo A. Ehlers S.,

Coordinator of the PDC faction at the Legislative Assembly

Cabinet Council Approves 1992 Budget

PA2809032091 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 Sep 91 p 8C

[Report by Julia Elena Alvear]

[Text] The Cabinet Council approved the 1992 budget—$2.243 billion—during a special session on 26 September. The budget for the next fiscal year includes the 13th month bonus.

The announcement was made at a news conference by President Guillermo Endara, who stated that 70 percent of the budget will be destined for investment.

The 1992 budget includes the salaries for government and autonomous agencies employees—approximately $80 million.

Endara said that $671 million is destined for investment, particularly for improvements in the health and education sectors.

President Guillermo Endara said there is an understanding, rather than a commitment, with the international finance organizations (IFIS).

Endara said that requests have been submitted to the IFIS' directorate board, which is scheduled to meet in mid-November, to step up procedures so that Panama may present a proposal for payment of its foreign debt.

"Our goal is to have the Panamanian proposal approved by 15 November. If it is not approved, we will wait," the president said.

The Panamanian debt is approximately $6 billion. The Social Security Board's reorganization, fiscal reforms, and privatization plans were approved during the planning minister's latest negotiations.

Industrialists, Workers Criticize Economic Plan

PA2809153491 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Sep 91 p 1A

[Article by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] The Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama (CTRP) and the Association of Panamanian Industrialists (SIP) have agreed that a relaxation of protection measures for agriculture and industry, proposed to solve efficiency and quality problems, will only serve to promote "cannibalistic" competition.

During the "First National Productive Force Meeting To Analyze the Panamanian Situation," workers and businessmen said the scope of the national strategy for economic development and modernization "jeopardizes the survival of workers and their organizations."

They believe the government plan was developed under pressure from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and that its implementation in Latin America has had "traumatic" effects on social and labor conditions.

They stated that the impact of conditions imposed by the international credit organizations has caused a significant increase in underemployment, a decline in real wages, a weakening of the salary structure, and an increase in poverty.

The CTRP and the SIP met for the first time to discuss issues of common concern. They noted that this "Panamanian-style" strategy is merely "a new incarnation of the

hated three-in-one law implemented during the administration of former President Nicolas Ardito Barletta. [no end quotation marks as published] This law advocated dismantling state enterprises and liberating markets.

They criticized the fact that Panamanian labor is considered "expensive", and therefore not competitive, as a result of the establishment of a minimum wage. They also challenged accusations against them of "encouraging distortions" in the labor market as result of collective bargaining obligations.

In a note they pointed out that "no one can categorically state that the minimum wage policy has been an obstacle to economic growth or to investments, since we are all aware that the minimum wage has not been adjusted since 1982."

They stated that, according to the official diagnostic strategy, development problems are said to be caused exclusively by the "almost parasitic" manufacturers, who cannot live without government subsidies, and the "lazy and unproductive" labor force.

They maintain that, to solve the economic conflict which to a great extent it caused, the government has suggested several policies to reestablish the primacy of the market privatization programs, the elimination industrial protection, export promotion, public employment, and directing public investment.

The note points out the "behind all this, as with all orthodox adjustment programs, the real objective of the so-called strategy is to free resources to allow the country to honor its international financial commitments."

They criticized the fact that labor reforms are being suggested to make hiring and firing more flexible as a way to cut costs. This infringes on the Constitution and on the International Labor Organization's (OIT) agreements and treaties.

Arnulfist Party Elects Widow of Arnulfo Arias

PA3009032091

[Editorial Report] Panama City Radio Soberana Civilista in Spanish at 0003 GMT on 30 September broadcasts live from the Dos Continentes Hotel in Penonome, Cocle Province, the results of the election of president of the Arnulfist Party at the party's first convention.

At 0014 GMT, a convention official announces the official results of the election: Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, widow of Arnulfo Arias, 225 votes; Francisco Artola, a legislator from Bocas del Toro Province, 213 votes; one null vote.

At 0026 GMT, Mireya Moscoso de Gruber begins addressing the convention delegates. She states: "Before beginning my speech, I want to invite the members of the other slate to join us because we are all brothers of Arnulfo Arias." Amid cheers from the delegates, she adds: "Dr. Arnulfo Arias used to say that the voice of the people is the voice of God. Today you have fulfilled your duty to the party. The Arnulfist masses and our fatherland feel pleased with the duty we have fulfilled. The Panamanian people, who are preeminently Arnulfists, have spoken very loudly and clearly. We continue to be the country's moral reserve."

Moscoso de Gruber continues stressing the teachings of Arnulfo Arias, describing him as a "patriot, a nationalist, a great man, and a servant of the Panamanian nation." She adds: "The basis for the reorganization of the party will be a system of duties and rights, based on our ideals. This will promote the development of internal democracy."

At 0037 GMT, she states: "On my part, I promise to lead the destiny of the party so that the democratic system and social justice will be strengthened and that the sacred interests of the fatherland will be consolidated. This is so because democracy, social justice, and nationalism are the basic triad of our doctrine. [applause] I will maintain the party's unity. The internal bodies of the Arnulfist Party will be led by honest, serious, and capable individuals whose efforts will be based strictly on the principles of our doctrine and the law. There will be no room for internal quarrels, frustrations, and disputes, which are harmful for the development of the party. [applause, cheers] There will also be no room for ideological deviations by small or contrived groups. Disagreements will be resolved firmly and with cordiality, on the basis of the Panamenist doctrine and on justice."

Moscoso de Gruber concludes her speech at 0044 GMT by referring to President Guillermo Endara for the first time: "I want to invite all Arnulfists, all those who love Arnulfo Arias, to go with me to the Presidential Palace at 1700 on 30 September to tell the president: Mr. President, you now have a legalized party, now struggle for the Arnulfists. [applause, cheers]"

After the singing of the national anthem, the live relays ends at 0048 GMT.

Allegations Against Legislator Investigated

PA2909223591 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 27 Sep 91 p 12

[Report by Yali Enrique Pitti]

[Text] Members of the National Legislative Asssembly Budget Committee described legislator Francisco Artola as "shameless" for refusing to explain his participation in the alleged mishandling of 10 million balboas allotted for the victims of the 22 April earthquake in Bocas del Toro Province.

Legislator Gabriel Arosemena, one of the legislators investigating the "scandal involving the 10 million balboas," told EL SIGLO that the Special Investigatory Commission discovered that Artola is a shareholder of COPISA [expansion unknown], one of the companies that received contracts to build projects in that province.

"According to the Constitution, if a legislator owns over 20 percent of shares in a company or enterprise, it cannot do business with the government. This is where the first irregularity emerges, because he owns more shares than those allowed by the Constitution, he added. [no end quotation mark as published]

Another irregularity, according to Arosemena, is that persons in charge of ordering contracts for construction or remodeling projects are the same ones who are benefiting from these projects, which clearly reveals favoritism.

Legislator Arosemena explained that the investigation on the fate of the 10 million balboas was started due to the steady number of complaints regarding the inability to resolve the problems of the earthquake victims.

"I remember that a few months ago the Budget Committee expeditiously granted an extraordinary credit totaling 10 million balboas, and yet the Bocas de Toro Province residents and community in general have not benefited from it," he stated.

He added that the Special Investigatory Commission will complete in the next few hours a report on how those millions were spent in projects to build housing, hospitals, and other health centers, and repair roads, airports, and docks. Members of the Budget Committee noted that Artola's refusal to explain his involvement in the "multimillion scandal" will blemish the good image of the Assembly.

The Special Investigatory Commission comprises legislators Alfredo Elhers, Gabriel Arosemena, Mario Forero, and Gerardo Gonzalez, who have carefully reviewed all the contracts for remodeling, construction, repair, and demolition projects.

Corregimiento Representatives Announce Protest

PA3009155591 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 30 Sep 91 p 50

[Article by Jose Gonzalez Batista]

[Text] Olmedo Guillen, president of the National Council of Corregimiento Representatives, has been on a hunger strike for over 70 hours. Guillen announced that he will remain on strike until the executive branch approves an annual budget of 10,000 balboas required by the corregimiento representatives throughout the country to meet the people's needs.

Olmedo Guillen said he is protesting to demand that the government pay immediately the 5,000 balboas that correspond to 1991 and to approve 10,000 balboas for the 1992 budget to be used for community works.

Guillen pointed out that so far he has not received an answer from President Guillermo Endara Galimany the person who can solve the corregimiento representatives's problem. "The Community Boards have not been able to meet the needs of the poorer groups in our country," he pointed out. "Actually," said a somewhat tired Mr. Guillen, "the government is trying to eliminate the people's power and the true representation of the majorities. There is enough money for what we are demanding. However, the president does not want to pay us."

Guillen reported that today, 30 September, the corregimiento representatives and the Panamanian people will begin marching at 1600 from the Legislative Assembly toward the Presidency of the Republic to demand their rights, which represent the help they will provide for hundreds of people who are awaiting a true democratic change.

Olmedo Guillen added that the the National Parliament, under the leadership of Marcos Ameglio, has issued a resolution supporting the corregimiento representatives who are struggling for the needy classes.

Alberto Conte, president of the Civic Crusade, yesterday visited Guillen at the House of the Municipality to voice the crusade's solidarity with the actions of the corregimiento representatives as they are for the benefit of the popular sectors.

Juan McKenzie Reportedly Hiding in Panama

PA3009122591 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 29 Sep 91 p 12d

[Text] On 29 September, a spokesman from the Attorney General's Office reported that Juan McKenzie is still in Panamanian territory and that he presumably has taken refuge in a residence that has immunity.

McKenzie, whom the authorities link with the alleged subversive 20 December Movement (M-20), escaped from the Judicial Technical Police installation on 27 August, with the help of some members of that security institution.

Juan McKenzie was arrested in June in Obaldia Port carrying M-20 propaganda, according to a report issued by the National Police Director Gonzalo Menendez Franco.

In Panama, the diplomatic missions and the homes of the Legislative Assembly members have immunity privileges.

Nevertheless, some believe that the legislative immunity does not extend to the homes of deputies, therefore, a qualified authority could authorize a search.

Early in 1990, then Assistant District Attorney Luis Felipe Munoz authorized the search of opposition Deputy Gerardo Gonzalez' home, arguing that the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] leader Darinel Espino had taken refuge there.

This incident triggered the protest of the PRD faction that demanded an investigation before the full Legislative Assembly.

The Attorney General's Office spokesman asserted that there are strong indications that McKenzie is in a place in which immunity will be determined under legal provisions.

Argentina

President Menem Denounces Haitian Coup

PY0110123691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1216 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Report by unidentified special correspondent on board the presidential plane]

[Excerpt] Argentine President Carlos Menem energetically condemns the coup d'etat in Haiti.

During a technical stopover in the Canary Islands, Spain, on his way to Israel, Egypt, and Tunisia, Menem added that coups d'etat have "fortunately" become the exception, and made it clear that they are not just the "patrimony" of South or Central America; they also occur in European countries.

The chief of state said that "what happened in Yugoslavia is worse than what has occurred in Haiti, because the former is producing tragic and dramatic consequences not just for that nation, but for the whole of Europe as well." [passage omitted]

Government Denounces Coup

PY0110033891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0005 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (TELAM)--The Argentine Government today expressed "its categorical repudiation" of the violent incidents in Haiti, which "may pose a threat to the institutional stability of a sister-nation." In addition, it expressed "its complete support for the constitutional government headed by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide."

The Argentine Foreign Ministry stated that "at a time in which Latin America has consolidated its republican institutions and democracy, which is essential for ties among Latin American countries and the rest of the world, conduct similar to that upheld by this marginal sector must be opposed and immediately and definitely crushed."

In a communique issued today, the Foreign Ministry appealed "to the rebels who have violated the Constitution and the laws to surrender and subordinate themselves to the lawful authorities who were installed on 7 February 1991."

The communique concludes that in view of these incidents, "the Argentine Government has contacted other members of the Rio Group and OAS member-countries."

Menem Leaves For Israel; Lithuanian VP Arrives

PY0110013091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2230 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem left tonight at 2200 aboard presidential airplane Tango-1 for an eight-day tour that will take him to Israel and Tunisia. He will also pay a private visit to Italy.

President Menem, who boarded the plane through a glassed corridor, avoided the press awaiting him at the airport. He was escorted to the airport by, among others, Eduardo Bauza, secretary general of the Presidency; union leader Diego Ibanez; heart surgeon Raul Matera; former minister Alberto Kohan; and Press Secretary Raul Burzaco.

Lithuanian Vice President Bronislavas Kuzmickas arrived at Ezeiza International Airport as President Menem was departing. Kuzmickas will pay a three-day official visit to Argentina.

Menem Comments on U.S Envoy, Other Topics

PY2709212091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Sep (NA)—President Carlos Menem said today that U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman did not initiate any type of "interference" in the domestic affairs of the country when he referred to the Pharmaceutical Patents Law.

Menem said that "the ambassador did not do anything out of place" and dismissed deputies' criticism of the U.S. diplomat who forecast a date for promulgation of the law.

"Just look who presented the motion and how the people answered on 8 September," the president said. Menem spoke with reporters at the military section of the metropolitan airport after suspending a trip to Puerto Belgrano Naval Base due to bad weather in that area.

Menem said that the legislators who questioned Todman's attitude "are those who think that Argentima must always oppose the United States and other world powers. That position is incomprehensible today," Menem added.

"The United States is part of this continent; we are implementing an integration process, we want to establish free trade zones. They are totally mistaken if they want to create a conflict with that country and if they want us to declare the ambassador persona non grata," Menem added.

The president and Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez held an impromptu news conference at the metropolitan airport after failing to travel to Puerto Belgrano, where they were going to announce the reorganization of the Defense Ministry.

Gonzalez announced, however, that two secretariats and five under secretariats will be involved in the reorganization. The minister said that the new Military Affairs Secretariat will be headed by Juan Ferreira Pinho and the Planning and Reorganization Secretariat by Jorge Pereyra de Olazabal.

Regarding the state reform plan, Menem said that "all the privatization processes that I proposed at the beginning of my term will be concluded by the end of 1992."

Regarding the conflicting situation affecting the Patagonian Iron Mining Incorporated (Hipasam), Menem said that the firm "could not continue operating with such large deficits."

Menem said: "We are going to rationalize Hipasam; we have to reduce the payroll. We have opened a book to register those who can retire voluntarily."

"A firm showing such a large deficit cannot continue operating with more than 1,000 workers because the deficit is paid by the state, by all of us. The firm provides nothing, absolutely nothing, to the country we all want," Menem stressed.

Menem also denied that the federal government was going to intervene in Jujuy Province.

Regarding the situation at Blast Furnace Zapla, Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez said that "the only news I have is that the documents for the bidding are ready."

Regarding the row created around the remodeling of seven airports, Menem said that the Italian firm "Italimpianti" [expansion unknown] will conduct "a feasibility study" on the issue, adding that the study "will not cost the state a cent."

"The study will be completed in 150 days, and if the government decides to go ahead with the project, the study submitted by the company will be adjusted to the regulations for that type of contract," he said.

He also referred to relations with Great Britain and to the agreements reached with that country, noting that negotiations produced "a dialogue that supports Argentina's permanent efforts to recover its sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands."

"We will try to find the best possible solution to the pending topics in order to avoid harming Argentine interests," he added.

The chief of state, who addressed several issues, said that Argentine labor leaders "are totally outdated." Regarding the rally that the 62 organizations are planning to hold on 17 October at Plaza de Mayo, he said that the "100,000 workers who can attend the rally cannot match the 5 million votes that we received on 8 September and which endorsed our policy."

"I believe the people expressed their will on 8 September, and this is the best answer that I can give to outdated unionists, who are out of touch with the current world," he said.

He added that the recent electoral victory "is sort of an endorsement for the program that the government has set in motion, and for its political, economic, social, and international plan. Facts are categorical. Those unionists should at least remain silent. They are totally outdated."

Cavallo Makes Positive Evaluation of Debt Talks

PY3009220491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Sep 91 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Within six or nine months "the foreign debt will be ancient history in Argentina," Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said yesterday on his return from the United States.

Cavallo told reporters at Ezeiza international airport that his talks with leaders of creditor institutions in Washington and New York had been "very satisfactory. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Highlighting Argentina's fulfillment of fiscal aims this quarter, Cavallo voiced hope the country would receive the second tranche of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stand-by loan as well as an extended facilities loan, paving the way for access to the much- courted Brady Plan.

The government posted a fiscal surplus during the July-September quarter which exceeds the figures in the agreement signed with the IMF, said Cavallo. The surplus was of 930 million dollars against the stipulated 828 million, he said.

"For the fourth quarter of the year we are expecting a surplus of around 1.5 billion dollars against 1.4 billion," the minister added.

"We're doing well and will have no problems meeting the targets of the stand-by loan agreement.

"By fulfilling these goals we kill two birds with one stone: We abide strictly by the guidelines of the convertibility law, which is crucial for stability, and we also comply with the entities which have lent us money while increasing the possibility of receiving more," explained Cavallo.

As for the controversial issue of pharmaceutical patents, Cavallo said "we can't allow the sectorial interests of a business chamber to affect relations between our country and the US, when having or lacking the support of the US government can mean receiving or being prevented from getting a 10 billion dollar reduction on our debt," he argued.

During his stay in the US, Cavallo stressed that Argentina would be forced to offer "better guarantees" and cut back its debt capital or interests by about 10 billion dollars before being admitted to the Brady Plan for debt reduction.

The minister met in the US with officials of President George Bush's administration as well as authorities from the US Treasury, World Bank, IMF, Inter-American Development Bank (BID) and the Creditor Banks Steering Committee.

He especially underlined that the BID believed economics and politics were "going well in Argentina" and there were "solid bases for stability."

He added that the BID would disburse a loan for small productive ventures before the end of the year.

Cavallo a'so pointed out that the government of Japan had lined up an additional loan which could greatly ease admittance to the Brady Plan.

Regarding the streamlining of the public sector, Cavallo confirmed that personnel ranks would continue to shrink through voluntary retirement. He thus denied rumours that the government intended to scrap these costly retirement plans in the coming stages of state reform.

"The idea is not to dismiss people in an arbitrary way nor punish them, but rather to offer alternatives so they may choose other directions and work in activities with better prospects," said Cavallo.

Asked how President Carlos Menem's visit to the US in November would affect foreign debt negotiations, Cavallo said "it will help the implementation of some key decisions to get talks underway within the framework of the Brady Plan."

"Menem's visit will be an important event within the framework of foreign debt negotiations," said Cavallo.

In related developments, Presidential Chief-of-Staff Eduardo Bauza denied rumours of a rift between Menem and Cavallo, saying the economy minister "enjoys the full political support of the President, the cabinet and the Justicialist Party," and would not have been about to carry on with his activities if he lacked this endorsement.

In statements to the newspaper La Voz del Interior in Cordoba, Bauza contended that "we have a close-knit cabinet which works with transparency, each minister managing his own area."

Armed Forces Restructuring Plan Considered

PY3009160291 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1759 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (NA)—According to military sources, the government allegedly will implement in the next few months a strict restructuring of civilian and military personnel in the three Armed Forces branches in an attempt to reduce the military cadres by almost 20 percent.

The restructuring, which aims to drastically reduce government spending on payrolls and general expenses, will affect both civilian and military personnel, who should sign up for a voluntary retirement list or be subject to compulsory dismissal.

According to the military sources, the deep restructuring pursued by the government allegedly is linked to the public defense companies' privatization process, which already has taken its initial steps.

As for the personnel rationalization program the government is supposed to implement before the end of the year, the military spokesmen said it also includes a considerable reduction of admissions in the compulsory military service in the three Armed Forces branches.

Thus, the Army, which is the largest branch and has the largest general expenses and payroll, will reportedly admit only 15,000-16,000 soldiers in 1992, while the Navy will not accept more than 2,000 men.

The Air Force, the least overinflated branch of the three, may decide not to accept any new conscripts in 1992 as result of the strict plan of reducing expenses and personnel.

Despite the military readerships' silence on the subject, it was unofficially reported that several actions of "indiscipline" took place last week between lower-ranking officers or noncommissioned officers and military unit chiefs as a result of salary demands.

Reportedly, the incidents took place in the 24th Infantry Regiment in Rio Gallegos, Santa Cruz Province, and in the Navy Infantry School of Noncommissioned Officers in Punta Mogotes, Mar del Plata.

Navy Commander Admiral Jorge Ferrer reportedly referred to the issue during a dinner with businessmen from the foundation that supports the Rio Santiago Navy School. According to a media report, he reportedly said: "Those kids are painted faces novices; give us money to appease their spirits."

Despite the official silence on the subject, military sources said a group of lower-ranking officers and noncommissioned officers from the two aforementioned military units made salary claims to their chiefs, for which they were submitted to disciplinary sanctions.

According to the report, the commander's office of the 24th Infantry Regiment of Rio Gallegos was seriously damaged in answer to the sanctions he imposed on his subordinates.

Spokesmen from the three Armed Forces branches recognized that these situations may force "an immediate increase of the budget for all sectors" in the face of the threat of more movements against the middle-ranking chiefs of the forces.

As for the expected rationalization plan, political sources admitted that the dispute, which ended in the resignation of three defense under secretaries since Antonio Erman Gonzalez became minister, must be considered within this framework.

According to the sources, the resignation of Francisco Cerro, Diego Estevez, and Carlos Carballo from the Defense Ministry reportedly has accelerated the privatization process of the public defense companies, especially after the appointment of Jorge Pereyra de Olazabal, a liberal, as head of the newly created Defense Production Secretariat.

As for figures, despite the spokesmen's cautiousness, they said that in the next three years about 5,400 noncommissioned officers and more than 1,200 officers may be dismissed from the Army, the largest Armed Forces branch.

Meanwhile, Colonel Jorge Traynor, military lyceums director, said that the future of these institutes will be ensured through the support of foundations.

More on Restructuring

PY2909205291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Sep 91 p 11

[From the "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Defence Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez yesterday announced a global restructuring of his department. From now on, there will be two secretaries: Military Affairs under Juan Ferreyra Pino and Planning, in which former Industry Secretary Jorge Pereyra de Olazabal will deal with the privatization of defence sector privatizations [as published].

Balza Downplays Military Unrest

PY3009215891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Sep 91 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Army Deputy Chief-of-Staff Martin Balza yesterday urged the troops to "work with faith" despite "present economic hardships," while downplaying reports of alleged unrest in the military sector.

Balza, replacing Chief-of-Staff Martin Bonnet who is on sick leave, gave a speech yesterday at the Campo de Mayo Communications School to mark the day of that branch of the force.

The Army second-in-command took advantage of the facilities of the communications centre to send greetings to Army divisions around the country, including the Antarctic.

Meanwhile yesterday fresh reports were aired regarding an imminent restructuring of the military sector that would include a 20 percent troop reduction.

Military leaders gathered yesterday to hear Balza's speech were taken aback by news pieces published simultaneously yesterday which mentioned recent incidents in southern bases linked to wage claims, as well as the sweeping restructuring allegedly planned by the government.

According to these reports, the looming military reform would affect both men in uniform and the civilian personnel of the Armed Forces.

For his part, in statements to reporters Balza played down the news leaked to the press on an alleged global restructuring of the Armed Forces including mass dismissals and other severe restrictions.

Other generals present at the Army Communications School explained that the Defence Ministry was studying a gradual reduction of non-operative divisions, such as those that work in a parallel way to the military's specific tasks.

The idea, they explained, is for the Armed Forces to be able to become independent from all establishments and departments not strictly related to military affairs, such as the management of petrochemical and steel plants, shipyards, service firms and other establishments included in the defence budget.

The Army leaders pointed out that a regiment of almost 800 men is currently operating with a monthly budget of 75 million australs, which, coupled with the low salaries earned by all ranks (a general collects 13 million australs take-home pay) has reduced the operational capacity of the Armed Forces to only seven percent of its offensive capacity.

In this sense, the generals also reminded reporters that while the defence budget amounts to almost two percent of the Gross Domestic Product, 75 percent is used for the maintenance and running of entities which do not form part of the basic military structures. The military core itself in fact uses only 0.35 percent of the Gross Domestic Product.

The generals readily admitted that the wage and budget situation of the Armed Forces was "critical," but they warned against spreading rumours which did not come from military spheres but rather were aimed at using the military problem to spark certain political confrontations.

"Working with faith we will overcome these difficult times," stressed the deputy chief-of-staff.

Bolivia

Loans Totaling $180 Million Approved

PY2809163491 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Sep 91 p 1

[Summary] The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] approved a $140 million loan for Bolivia and the World Bank approved a $40 million loan for economic growth and structural reform of the Bolivian financial system. The contracts were signed by Planning and Coordination Minister Samuel Doria Medina in Washington.

EEC Grants $6.5 Million Credit for Potosi

PY2709181591 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena reported that the EEC approved a $6.5 million credit that will be invested in Potosi and in the Bolivian Altiplano. This credit will be used to expand the potable water system in Potosi Department and to promote the

production of quinoa [seed used as cereal] in the Bolivian Altiplano. [passage omitted]

Minister Criticizes Tupaj Katari Terrorists

PY0110023691 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Report by unidentified reporter on the "Logbook" program]

[Excerpts] The appearance of the self-styled Tupaj Katari Guerrilla Army and several terrorist attacks that recently occurred in Bolivia have prompted us to ask several personalities about their opinions on the subject. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena refused to call the authors of the attacks guerrillas; he labeled them simple terrorists. He said that some media that call them guerrillas are making a semantic and conceptual mistake. Terrorists who rave to appear on the news, but who are nothing more than a small bunch of crackpots at large, cannot be labeled guerrillas, the government spokesman said. He explained that while a guerrilla movement has a defined military and political structure as well as a strategy and tactics to take power, these terrorists are nothing but psychologically unbalanced people who want to build a political enterprise by blowing up electric power towers. Pena said that the public should not be alarmed about the terrorist attacks because they have no chance of success as demonstrated by growing expressions of repudiation shown by different sectors of the citizenry.

Brazil

Collor on 'Irreversible' Privatization Process

PY3009141691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor has asserted that the privatization program is irreversible and that the government is alert to any kind of maneuver designed to jeopardize this process.

Yesterday in Brasilia, President Collor asserted that the government is alert to any maneuver intended to hinder the privatization process scheduled to start on 15 October with the auction of Usiminas [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc.]. In Collor's opinion, the privatization process belongs to the society that voted for a modern government program marked by an open economy, industrial competitiveness, balanced accounts, and the recovery of the government's capacity to plan and invest in the education, health, infrastructure, transportation, and public safety fields. This is why Collor asserted that the privatization process is irreversible.

[Begin Collor recording] The privatization process is irreversible because the state can no longer shoulder these responsibilities in sectors that do not fall directly under its jurisdiction. We must carry out the privatization process to take these responsibilities off the state's shoulders so that it may fulfill the needs and demands of the people in the education, health, infrastructure, transportation, and public safety areas. [end recording]

Collor denied requesting that Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola safeguard the Usiminas auction. He said that in a federal system each government knows its responsibilities, and it is not up to the president to tell the governors what to do.

Presidential Advisers View Military Salary Raise

PY2809175091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] The privatization of public companies and the salary adjustment for military personnel were the main topics of a meeting in Brasilia this morning.

The president did not attend the meeting, but the ministers of justice and economy, the secretary general of the Presidency, the military household minister, the strategic affairs secretary, and the president of BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development] joined legal adviser Celio Souza Silva, presidential adviser for this area, to discuss the legal implications of these two matters.

The first topic in the meeting's agenda was the Usiminas [Minas Gerais Steel Mills, Inc.] privatization process, which is being resisted by organized groups and the courts. The other issue was the bill approved by Congress granting a 45-percent salary increase to the military.

The bill adjusting military salaries has not yet been promulgated by President Fernando Collor because the government fears a legal battle if it is approved. According to legal experts, the bill violates the principle of equality in public service. This means that civilian public servants have the right to an increase equal to that granted to the military and they could go to court to get it with disastrous results for government coffers.

The ministers discussed the issue but did not comment on the results of the meeting, which will be taken up with President Collor this afternoon.

Collor Promulgates Salary Bill

PY0110025091 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor promulgated the bill adjusting the military salary on an average of 45 percent. The president signed the bill approved by Congress without objections at the end of the afternoon.

As of 1 October, the salary of a squadron admiral, an army general, or a lieutenant brigadier will be 623,325 cruzeiros while the salary of a first sergeant will be 239,990.70 cruzeiros.

The draft bill adjusting the military salary by 45 percent will be published in the official newspaper 1 October.

Chile

Government Denounces Haitian Coup d'Etat

PY0110012091 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas regrets the loss of human life and the disruption of democracy in Haiti. He openly described the situation in Haiti as a coup d'etat. Vargas made these remarks to the press a few minutes ago after contacting Chilean Ambassador to Haiti Luis Larrain, who is virtually under siege because he cannot leave his residence due to the fighting.

Commenting on the situation, Vargas said:

[Begin recording] Unfortunately, I contacted Ambassador Luis Larrain just a few minutes ago; rather, he called me—we have contacted each other several times today—and informed me that President Aristide has just been arrested and that, apparently, the rebel forces have control of the situation.

The Chilean Government deplores this situation with sound justification. This is incompatible with the situation that the ministry [not further identified] is going through and with international commitments made by Haiti, especially within the framework of the inter-American system. The OAS Charter establishes among its fundamental principles that solidarity among countries of the Americas requires the actual exercise of democratic, representative systems of government.

In light of these considerations, the recent OAS General Assembly approved a mechanism, which is included in the Santiago Declaration, to the effect that governments consult each other in the face of actions such as those taking place in Haiti. [end recording]

The OAS Council is holding a special session in Washington today and is considering the Haitian situation, Vargas said. He openly deplored the Haitian situation. He said:

[Begin recording] We are concerned about the loss of human life and the disruption of democracy, which, after a difficult, lengthy process, seemed to have been established in Haiti. We are sorry and concerned about this. [end recording]

Special instructions have been given to Chilean OAS Ambassador Heraldo Munoz to endorse any mechanism aimed at protecting democracy in Haiti.

Senator Comments on Soviet Union; Brings Letter

PY3009201191 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] On his return from Moscow, Senator Maximo Pacheco said that the Soviet Union will not disappear and that it is experiencing a profound transformation toward a yet undefined community economy based on solidarity.

The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] congressman was Chilean ambassador to Moscow during the administration of President Eduardo Frei between 1965 and 1968. He indicated that the Soviet Union will not return to Socialism or establish a capitalist system.

Pacheco said that he is very confident about the process of changes in the Soviet Union, adding that the republics that have become independent will find a way to maintain their independence without losing the relationship among them. They will thus become a union of sovereign republics, the congressman noted.

Pacheco said that relations between Moscow and Chile must be viewed with great confidence, adding that the prospect of joint ventures represents a great opportunity for Chilean entrepreneurs.

Concerning the work of Chilean Ambassador to Moscow Clodomiro Almeyda, Pacheco said that Almeyda is viewing with concern the developments there, but without fatalism. Pacheco described Almeyda's work as very interesting.

Pacheco went to Moscow with a personal letter from Patricio Aylwin to Mikhail Gorbachev and is returning with a letter from the Soviet leader to his Chilean counterpart. The congressman is also carrying a letter from Clodomiro Almeyda to Aylwin.

In conclusion, the PDC senator noted that he agrees with the Russian poet Kiuchev who once said that Russia has a special quality and only believes in itself. Pacheco added that he is optimistic over the future of that nation.

Military Cooperation With France Agreed Upon

PY2809000191 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas and his French counterpart Pierre Joxe have agreed in Paris to promote bilateral military cooperation. This was announced in a joint communique issued at the end of a meeting they held in the French capital. The visit by the Chilean defense minister comes within his European tour.

The communique states that Franco-Chilean military cooperation provides for an exchange of information between the two Armed Forces and for the visit to Chile of French war vessels and aircraft where they will conduct maneuvers with Chilean military institutions.

The Chilean defense minister also met in Paris with the chief of staff of the French Army. Rojas also visited the Army operations center. On Monday he will visit the airspace center.

Trade, Technical Agreement Signed With Spain

PY3009134491 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Rojas and his Spanish counterpart, Julian Garcia Vargas, recently signed

in Madrid an agreement to increase trade and technical and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

The two ministers held a two-hour meeting during which they signed an agreement to exploit the possibilities of increasing relations in the fields of education and technical-professional training for the two countries' armed forces personnel. They also decided to continue talks to develop activities in the fields of cooperation on industrial and technological defense operations.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Have you reached an agreement for the purchase of other planes by Chile?

[Rojas] No. I have only come here to verify the level of satisfaction in Spain regarding the performance of our Pillan training aircraft in the Spanish Air Force school. We also wanted to verify the technological development carried out by CASA [Aeronautics Constructions, Inc.], because this is a great enterprise. I can only add that the contracts are in effect and will be in effect until 1994 with the manufacturing by ENAER [National Aeronautical Enterprise] of the A-36 aircraft. But Chile has not made any negotiations for the purchase of new airplanes. [end recording]

Diplomatic Ties With Latvia Reestablished

PY0110014691 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 27 Sep 91 p 14

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas announced yesterday that Chile reestablished diplomatic relations with Latvia, one of the Baltic republics and one of the first republics to declare its independence from the Soviet Union.

The reestablishment of relations was implemented through a document signed at the United Nations by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and Latvia's representative.

Vargas reported that Silva Cimma will take similar steps in the next few days to establish relations with Lithuania and Estonia, the other two Baltic republics, which have already been recognized as independent nations by the Chilean Government.

Vargas noted that these new diplomatic ties will not necessarily result in establishment of a Chilean Embassy in the host country, but a concurrent ambassador may be appointed to serve there.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Rwanda

PY2709144491 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 Sep 91 p C3

[Summary] The Chilean Foreign Ministry released a communique on 20 September reporting that, on that same day, government representatives from Chile and Rwanda signed a protocol in Nairobi, Kenya, establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries at the ambassadorial level.

Colombia

Cease-Fire Talks Suspended After Violence

Guerrilla Pre-Attack Proposal

PA0110005091 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1733 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Report by Carlos Mario Diaz]

[Text] Amid a moderate and cautious climate of optimism, the fourth round of peace talks will resume in Caracas this afternoon. Both the government and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] have brought to the table new proposals for a rapprochement concerning the thorny issue of demilitarized zones.

Even though the government is hopeful with regard to the cease-fire proposal, government spokesmen in Caracas have said that there is a new climate of understanding and optimism in the talks with the CNGSB.

In exchange for silencing their rifles, guerrilla representatives have proposed three basic points, which they have described as Phase A of the cease-fire:

First, the mutual suspension of attacks, which means lowering weapons; second, a formal cease-fire declaration, in which the CNGSB command and the government agree to respect the agreements; and third, a supervision mechanism in the form of a cease-fire verification commission.

[Begin recording of Francisco Galan, National Liberation Army spokesman] We believe that we will be able to do it and we are seriously interested in seeing if this week we can agree on a preliminary cease-fire agreement by which we can guarantee peaceful elections for the people of Colombia. [end recording]

The government, through peace adviser Jesus Antonio Bejarano, announced today in Caracas that the formulas proposed by the CNGSB are being studied.

[Begin Bejarano recording] We are willing to change our own criteria with regard to the demilitarized zone in principle, because we would be interested in a gradual cease-fire. [end recording]

The new course of the talks has led to the creation of a public order advisory commission, which was recently appointed and which traveled to Caracas this weekend. Tomorrow it will submit a report to President Cesar Gaviria.

Talks Suspended After Attack

PA0110010791 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0002 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] A few minutes ago the Colombian Government suspended the peace dialogue with the Guerrilla Coordinating Board in Caracas. There has just been a terrible attempt on the life of former Senate President Aurelio

Iragorri Hormaza. The Cauca Department politician miraculously escaped alive, but four of his bodyguards, a former mayor of Cajibio, and a civilian were killed. The violent incident took place near Cajibio, where Iragorri was on a campaign tour. Here are further details by Carlos Arturo Paez:

[Begin recording] [Paez in progress] ...communications adviser Mauricio Vargas read the communique with which the government temporarily suspends the Caracas talks.

[Vargas] The national government vehemently condemns the criminal and inhuman action carried out by members of terrorist organizations against the motorcade of Aurelio Iragorri Hormaza, candidate to the Senate, former Liberal Party director, and former Senate president. The cowardly ambush claimed the lives of former Cajibio Mayor Jairo Valencia, three policemen, a member of the Administrative Department of Security, and a young politician accompanying the candidate. The president and the entire government echo the nation's indignation and convey to the relatives of the victims the solidarity and condolences of the Colombian people.

Since the perpetrators of the terrorist action are members of one of the groups of the so-called Guerrilla Coordinating Board and since, as millions of Colombians have demanded, the dialogue with those organizations should be held amid minimum conditions of detente, the president has decided to instruct the government commission to immediately suspend its participation in the Caracas talks and to return to Bogota for consultations.

The national government reiterates that the dialogue with the guerrillas cannot be held amid such actions, which the people of Colombia can only interpret as a clear gesture that peace is not included in the objectives of the guerrilla organizations and that the dialogue is only an instrument for publicity and deceit. [end recording]

Rebel Representative Reacts

PA0110013391 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0006 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Antonio Garcia, representative of the Army of National Liberation at the peace talks in Caracas, by unidentified reporter in Bogota on 30 October—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] The government has just ordered its delegation to return to Bogota for consultations in response to the attempt on the life of former Senate President Aurelio Iragorri Hormaza this afternoon. What is your reaction?

[Garcia] At this time we do not have any information on what happened. We hope to obtain specific details so that we can have reliable information on the situation.

[Reporter] But at this time, the dialogue has been suspended. What outlook do you see?

[Garcia] This past weekend we on the Guerrilla Coordinating Board have been working, following a meeting with the peace advisory commission. That meeting brought an important rapprochement with those political sectors. This has permitted us to explain and clarify the proposal made by the coordinating board.

[Reporter] Would you be willing to suspend this type of activity if it turns out that your people were in fact responsible for this action?

[Garcia] We have been willing to establish a cease-fire. For the past three months we have stressed the importance of establishing a cease-fire that would prevent violent situations. This would bring about trust and confidence to promote the peace process.

Ecuador

President on Papal Arbitration in Peru Dispute

PA0110021191 Paris AFP in Spanish 2032 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, 30 Sep (AFP)—Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja today proposed at the United Nations the arbitration of Pope John Paul II for the peaceful resolution of the territorial dispute with Peru.

Speaking before the UN General Assembly, President Borja proposed the pope's arbitration after stressing that the Ecuadoran-Peruvian dispute "has produced potentially dangerous tension in recent weeks."

"With my country's unwavering respect for the principles of the UN Charter on the peaceful resolution of international disputes...I invite Peru, from mankind's highest and most prestigious forum, to peacefully resolve our old territorial dispute through the arbitration of Pope John Paul II," the Ecuadoran president stated.

After stressing that the pope's arbitration recently showed its effectiveness in the dispute between Argentina and Chile over the Beagle Channel, President Borja said that the people of both countries, "who are deeply Christian, would accept his arbitration and respect it."

The Ecuadoran president then proposed to Peru "to live in peace and to work jointly toward development, social justice, and improvement in the quality of life for the people of our countries, and to reduce our military expenses and direct our best efforts and financial resources toward productive tasks."

Borja also urged Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori and all Latin American presidents to solemnly declare the region a "zone of peace."

"Let us develop in it a concept of democratic security that will respond to the economic and human development of our people, allow us to renounce the threat of force to resolve conflicts between our countries, allow the borders to become places of understanding and friendship, and allow

us to say no to the arms buildup and the nuclearization of South America," President Borja said.

Peru

Ecuador's Papal Arbitration Proposal Rejected

PA0110030991 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, today made a shrewd new political move in the diplomatic field. Borja proposed to Peru, before the UN General Assembly, summitting to papal arbitration the territorial conflict that he claims exists between both nations.

To anyone who is reasonably informed, this proposal is to be used as an electoral platform and is a maneuver to arouse nationalistic fever among the people of Ecuador to support their current leaders. Such manipulation is a game in which deceit is always the weapon used by Ecuadoran politicians, for whom it is now important to sow vengeful passions that completely go against Ecuador's stated proposal—to contribute toward Latin American integration and brotherhood.

Borja asserted before the highest world forum that papal arbitration would allow for a peaceful and fair solution. Peru's response can only be an outright and categorical no. If someone has put peace in danger, that someone is Ecuador. If someone attempts to disregard a totally valid legal document, from the point of view of international law, Ecuador is undoubtedly that someone.

The entire world, and above all the His Holiness, knows the respect we have for Pope John II. This respect allows us to say that there is no room for papal arbitration in a dispute that was definitely settled in 1942, through the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. President Borja craftily exaggerates matters when he tries to compare the Ecuadoran-Peruvian problem—which one must reiterate is fostered by Ecuador, not by Peru—with the Argentine-Chilean dispute in 1978 over the Beagle Channel. The problem there was a completely different matter, and there was room then for papal arbitration. In this case there is a treaty, legally agreed upon and accepted, and the only thing left is to comply with this treaty with the guarantor nations' intervention. These nations in no way can elude the responsibility they assumed at the time of the treaty.

Ecuador's maneuvers in the international arena must not be taken lightly. Ecuador is seeking to gain international public opinion by telling the story its way, grossly misrepresented. Peru, must firmly and united counter these maneuvers in the only way possible—with the truth. Truth as well as law and reason are on our side.

Foreign Minister Rejects Proposal

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[Text] Lima, 30 Sep (ANDINA)—Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, Peruvian foreign minister and prime minister, has categorically rejected Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja's proposal. In a speech he delivered at the United Nations in New York, Borja proposed the mediation of Pope John Paul II.

Torres y Torres asserted that Peru has no border dispute with Ecuador. He noted that the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border was duly established by the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol and only 78 km have yet to be demarcated.

In a statement he made to a local radio station from New York, Torres y Torres Lara said that by proposing the mediation of the pope, Ecuador is rejecting the validity of the Rio de Janeiro agreement just five months before the 50th anniversary of its enforcement.

After recognizing the pope's prestige, Torres y Torres Lara said that if there is a dispute regarding the 78 km that remain to be demarcated, this issue should be submitted to the consideration of the guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol—that is, Argentina, the United States, Brazil, and Chile.

The Peruvian foreign minister stated that Article 7 of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol establishes that any doubt or disagreement must be resolved by the parties involved with the participation of representatives from the guarantor countries.

He added that Article 5 states that the tenure of the guarantor countries will last until definite demarcation of the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border, while enforcement of this protocol is to be guaranteed by the four countries.

As Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja did today, Prime Minister Torres y Torres Lara will address the United Nations General Assembly on 1 October.

The Peruvian foreign minister also denied Borja's statement about the purchase of over $2 billion worth of arms.

Torres y Torres reported that the Peruvian Foreign Ministry officially requested the mediation of the four guarantor countries so that, in keeping with what is established in the protocol, they could participate in demarcation of the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border.